本作品由三年五班論壇製作發布，僅供本論壇內交流使用，其他地方出現均為盜轉！女性向作品漢化不易，請尊重三年五班工作組勞動，抵制盜轉！

圖源：凡蕭蕭
翻譯：kattsssu eilean
校對：ilovesongoku
修圖：~sylvia 豚子魚 大頭
菠菜色的菠菜-嘰嘰.蓮潔

三年五班

綻放的戀情

第26話

バーズコミックスルチルコレクション「花は咲くか」①～④好評発売中

日高ショーコ

YOUICHI
YOUICHI
SAKURAI-SAN
SAKURAI-SAN
SAKURAI-SAN,
I...

EVEN NOW IT'S ALWAYS ON MY MIND...
THERE'S SOMETHING I HEARD WHEN I WAS SMALL, AND IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME EVER SINCE.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT MY PARENTS—
COMMITTED SUICIDE.
COME ON EVERYONE, RAISE YOUR GLASS!

NOW THEN— LET'S TOAST TO CHIEF SAKURAI'S PROMOTION AND TRANSFER TO THE KANSAI BRANCH
CHEERS !!
喀噠
喀噠
喀噠
喀噠
喀噠

SAKURAI-SAN, WITH ME AS WELL.
SAKURAI-SAN
SURE
AH
喀噠喀噠
CHEERS
here
CONGRATU-LATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION

...EH?

IT WON'T ... BUT
NO.
ANYWAY EVERYONE SAYS IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
SO IT'S FINE ALREADY.
WHAT I SAID JUST NOW IS SOMETHING THAT I PERSONALLY BELIEVE IN. I SHOULDN'T TROUBLE YOU WITH IT, SAKURAI-SAN.
NO... ACTUALLY IT'S FINE.
I APO-LOGIZE.
WHAT'S ALL THIS ...

...IF THAT WAS THE CASE,
THEN WHY WOULD HE TALK ABOUT IT?

...
SAKURAI-SAN,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING MOPING AROUND?
INOUE
...YEAH?
TO LET IT OUT AND RELAX A LITTLE ...
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S ALWAYS WANTED TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT, RIGHT?

!

WHAT, ARE YOU LEAVING NOW!
NO, NO, I'LL RETURN VERY QUICKLY.
I JUST WANT TO GO MAKE A CALL.

I ALREADY TOLD EVERYONE THAT MAKING WORK CALLS TONIGHT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN, YOU SHOULD ALSO RESTRAIN YOURSELF AS WELL!
ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IS IT TO YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
IT IS, RIGHT?!

YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T UNDERSTAND!
OK, OK, I UNDERSTAND.
EVEN WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE MIRACLE THIS MONTH, WHEN 80% OF THE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED IN THE PRINTING RUSH, I...

NO, NO IT ISN'T.
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE THIS ALONE.

IT'S FINE ALREADY.

TODAY, I'LL LISTEN TO WHATEVER YOU SAY.
I DID, I DID.
YOU DID SAY TODAY THAT YOU'D STAY HERE ALL NIGHT RIGHT!?
I'D PROBABLY GO HOME IMMEDIATELY
TRUTHFULLY, RIGHT NOW, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY TO SAY ONE SENTENCE TO YOUICHI,

...EVEN SO
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT I, AN OUTSIDER, CAN CASUALLY ASK ABOUT.
YOSHITOMI-SAN OR KASHIWAGI-SAN..
OR...
SOMEONE IN THE MINAGAWA FAMILY...?
YOSHITOMI-SAN, I'M HOME.

WELCOME HOME, YOUICHI.
YOSHITOMI-SAN, I...
WILL GO TO THE STUDIO TO PAINT LATER.
IS THE PHONE CIRCUIT OVER THERE STILL WORKING?
OH?
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
AH,
OI YOUICHI!
AH...
I'LL GO TO CHECK AND CONNECT IT LATER, SO TRY CALLING ME AT DINNERTIME.
I DON'T KNOW.
maybe?
You can also call my cellphone
...IT'S NOTHING.

YES,
I WANT TO PAINT SOMETHING LARGE, SO I WANT TO USE THE STUDIO.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GO TO THE ROOM YOU USUALLY PAINT IN?
AND ALSO, THAT ROOM...
I'M THINKING OF LENDING IT TO SOME FRIENDS IN COLLEGE. I'LL DISCUSS THAT WITH YOU MORE LATER.
EH?
friends?
I'M HOME, YOSHITOMI-SAN!
AH YOU-CHAN, I'M HOME!
WELCOME HOME.
YOSHITOMI-SAN, YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED COOKING RIGHT?
YOU HAVEN'T, RIGHT? SO CAN I GO TAKE A BATH FIRST?
NO ONE'S USING THE BATHROOM, RIGHT?
.....

WHAT'S WRONG, YOSHITOMI-SAN?
?
AH... IT'S NOTHING ...
?
IT'S JUST... DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOUICHI?
YOU-CHAN?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
BECAUSE HE SUDDENLY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT "FRIENDS".
IT SURPRISED ME...
Ah, you can go shower.
YOUSUKE'S STUDIO...
.....
LET'S NOT THINK OF THAT NOW.
UP TO NOW, HE'S NEVER WANTED TO GO IN..
ドキ ドキ ドキ ドキ
ドキ ドキ ドキ

探頭
AHHH, MINAGAWA HOUSE
OH...
AH...
UH-HUH
JUST WAIT A SECOND...
生下
SHOUICHI-SAN!?
NO, THAT.
AH
HELLO, I'M YOSHI-TOMI
AH
OH
YOSHITOMI-SAN, PHONE!
FOR ME?
OH... TOMORROW?
OH...
EH!?
BUT
eh
.....

WHEN I WAS SMALL,
THIS WAS WHERE FATHER AND MOTHER WORKED...
I ALWAYS FELT THAT I SHOULD NEVER GO NEAR THIS PLACE.
打開
THEN, THE SMELL OF TURPENTINE WAS VERY STRONG...

放
校

……

噪音人聲
哈哈哈哈
RIGHT NOW
IT'S ALSO GIVING OFF THE SAME SMELL...
Father and mother,
and also their friends...
打開

It was something that, as a child
as well as lodgers that my father invited.
I was absolutely incapable of entering.
Discussing difficult concepts between adults- that lively atmosphere...
Whether at the funeral or afterwards,
everyone always says that I'm "very pitiful".
They believe that to suddenly become alone is a very pitiful thing.
ALL OF IT'S HERE.. THE CANVAS PLIERS AND THE TACKS, THEY'RE ALL VERY CLEAN.
KASHIWAGI-SAN AND THE OTHERS PROBABLY LOOKED AFTER THEM.

But,
I couldn't understand the meaning behind their words.
BECAUSE FROM THE BEGINNING...
FROM THAT TIME
I'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT I WAS ALONE.

Every time I was asked "Can you manage by yourself?"
I always answered "Yes I can."
Because the atmosphere here made people feel as if any other answer wasn't allowed.
Whether it was Father or Mother, what was most important to them were their own artworks.
THEY WERE ALWAYS IMMERSED IN THEIR OWN WORLD...
敲
敲
敲
敲
FOR ME, THE MEMORY OF MY PARENTS..
ONLY CONSISTS OF THE VIEW OF TWO PEOPLE'S BACKS, AND THEIR MECHANICAL SMILES
NO MATTER HOW WARMLY THEY TREATED ME

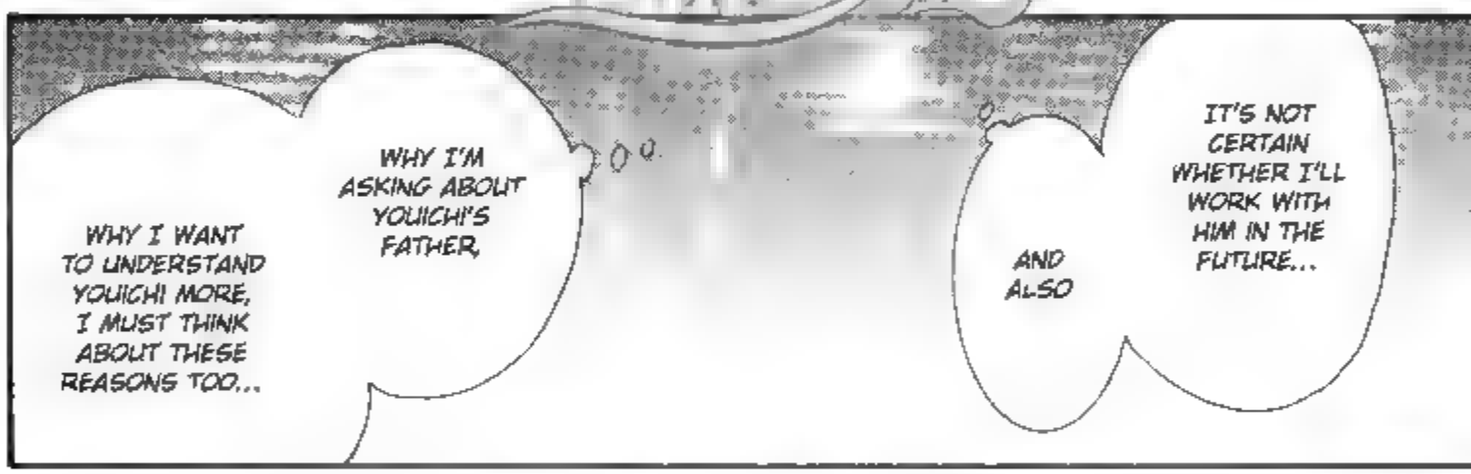
IN THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART
NONE OF IT REMAINS...
SAKURAI-SAN
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT MY PARENTS COMMITTED SUICIDE.
SO
THIS IS ONLY A RUMOR BUT
I HEARD THAT THEY MIGHT'VE COMMITTED A DOUBLE SUICIDE.
喀
驚嚇
嗡——
嗡——

AH
SAKURAI-SAN SENT ME A TEXT
Today my company's holding an all-night farewell party to celebrate my promotion.
Tomorrow's Saturday, so I'll return to the Minagawa House at dusk.
If you're free, do you want to go somewhere?
THAT'S FINE,
I'M FREE TOMORROW
送信
.....
.....
UGH REALLY!
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
I SAID SOMETHING UNNECESSARY.

EVEN THOUGH SAKURAI -SAN, HE.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT HE'S NOT THINKING ABOUT WHAT I SAID.
SAY SOMETHING THAT'S NOT DRUNK.
SAKURAI-SAANN
AND YOU, DON'T YOU GET DRUNK WAY TOO FAST?
AS I THOUGHT, PLEASE DON'T GO TO OSAKA AH.
AH INOUE!
UGH
WALK PROPERLY!

摇摆
COME ON, INOUE, GET IN THE CAR.
Uh
Uh
WELL THEN, THANKS FOR YOUR TROUBLE.
THANKS FOR YOUR TROUBLE.
SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE!
IT'S FINE IF HE JUST SHOWS HIS FACE, PLEASE LEAVE EVERYTHING ELSE TO ME.
SONOKO-SAN, I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS GUY TO MY PLACE TO REST.
TOMORROW'S THE EDITOR'S DISCUSSION, ISN'T IT? I'LL DEFINITELY GET HIM UP AND TO THE STUDIO ON TIME.
Uhh
Uhhh
HE FORGOT SOMETHING!
AH!
HAS SAKURAI-SAN LEFT ALREADY!?
Inoue that idiot
YES
IF I FALL ASLEEP NEAR THE STATION, WAKE ME UP
UNDERSTOOD.
SO IT'S FINE IF I TURN TO IZUMISAWA STATION AND THEN GO STRAIGHT THROUGH?

IF I'M GOING TO ASK, THEN KASHIWAGI-SAN IS PROBABLY THE BETTER CHOICE.
.....
咚咚咚
咚咚咚
3


WHY I WANT TO UNDERSTAND YOUICHI MORE, I MUST THINK ABOUT THESE REASONS TOO...
WHY I'M ASKING ABOUT YOUICHI'S FATHER,
AND ALSO
IT'S NOT CERTAIN WHETHER I'LL WORK WITH HIM IN THE FUTURE...

握緊
.....
IF I WERE IN KASHIWAGI-SAN'S SHOES, THIS KIND OF SUBJECT
IT'S DEFINITELY HARD TO TALK ABOUT IT
THAT'S RIGHT..
抓住
驚
.....
what kind of dream are you having?
the weather's fine you know
LET'S GIVE UP ON THAT IDEA..
Uhhhh
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE SAKURAI-SAN,
BUT HOW SHOULD I ANSWER ...

I WOULDN'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT AT ALL.
IT MIGHT ONLY MAKE YOUICHI MORE TROUBLED...
.....
BUT
IT'S NOT LIKE
WE CAN HIDE OUR RELATIONSHIP FOREVER.
I NEED TO THINK HARD...
FOR YOUICHI AS WELL AS FOR MYSELF
I NEED TO THINK...

I HOPE
YOUICHI WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO SMILE...
嘀嘀嘀嘀嘀...
TAKE-SAN.
ARE YOU AWAKE?

EHHH
I'M GOING TO WATCH A MOVIE NOW SO GET OUT
YOU HAVEN'T STARTED YET RIGHT? WATCH IT LATER.
besides they're all boring horror movies
DON'T GET IN MY WAY.
they're not boring at all.
you barged in without my permission again
.....
BY THE WAY, I HAVEN'T SEEN FUJIMOTO, IS HE NOT COMING HOME?
if only I'd locked the door
no erotic books?
IT'S LIKE THAT?
WILL HE MOVE OUT?
WHO KNOWS
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE SEEING YOUICHI WOULD BE PAINFUL FOR HIM.
.....
HE'S MENTALLY WEAK, THAT GUY
DON'T SAY THAT.
TO THE PARTIES INVOLVED, THIS KIND OF MATTER IS VERY IMPORTANT ...
even if the other party is Youichi...

I KNOW.
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM DRAWING IN THE STUDIO?
What is this I don't understand it at all
Philosophy?
SPEAKING ABOUT YOU-CHAN.
IT IS SURPRISING
IT SURPRISED ME.
沉默
YEAH
I THINK IT'S DEFINITELY DUE TO SAKURAI-SAN.
HE SUDDENLY CHANGED.
HE EVEN MADE FRIENDS OTHER THAN FUJIMOTO.

IT CAN'T BE?
IT'S PROBABLY ABOUT YOU GOING TO COLLEGE.
FROM THE START, THE PERSON ON THE PHONE DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING TO ME.
I THINK IT'S ONLY SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE COMPANY. .
HE'S BEEN CALLED FOR SOMETHING.
ALSO ..
TOMOR-ROW ..
IT LOOKS LIKE YOSHITOMI-SAN'S GOING TO THE MAIN HOUSE.
WELL ..
WHAT?
SO WHAT? IF THERE'S NOTHING THEN HURRY UP AND RETURN TO YOUR OWN ROOM.
...
SO
.....
SO, WELL .
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS!
IN THE END, I DECIDED TO STILL TAKE THE EXAMS!
MY TEACHER SAID TO BRING MY PARENTS NEXT WEEK!
YOU SEE, BECAUSE IT WAS A SUDDEN DECISION!
My plans have changed!

I SAID I DIDN'T.
WHEN YOU SUDDENLY STOPPED WORKING, I HAD A SMALL FEELING
WHAT COLLEGE DO YOU WANT TO TEST FOR?
You even laughed!
DON'T SHOW SUCH A WEIRD EXPRESSION!
YOU DEFINITELY DID!?
YOU SHOWED A "AH YOU ONLY DECIDED NOW" EXPRESSION!
I DIDN'T.

I WON'T TELL YOU.

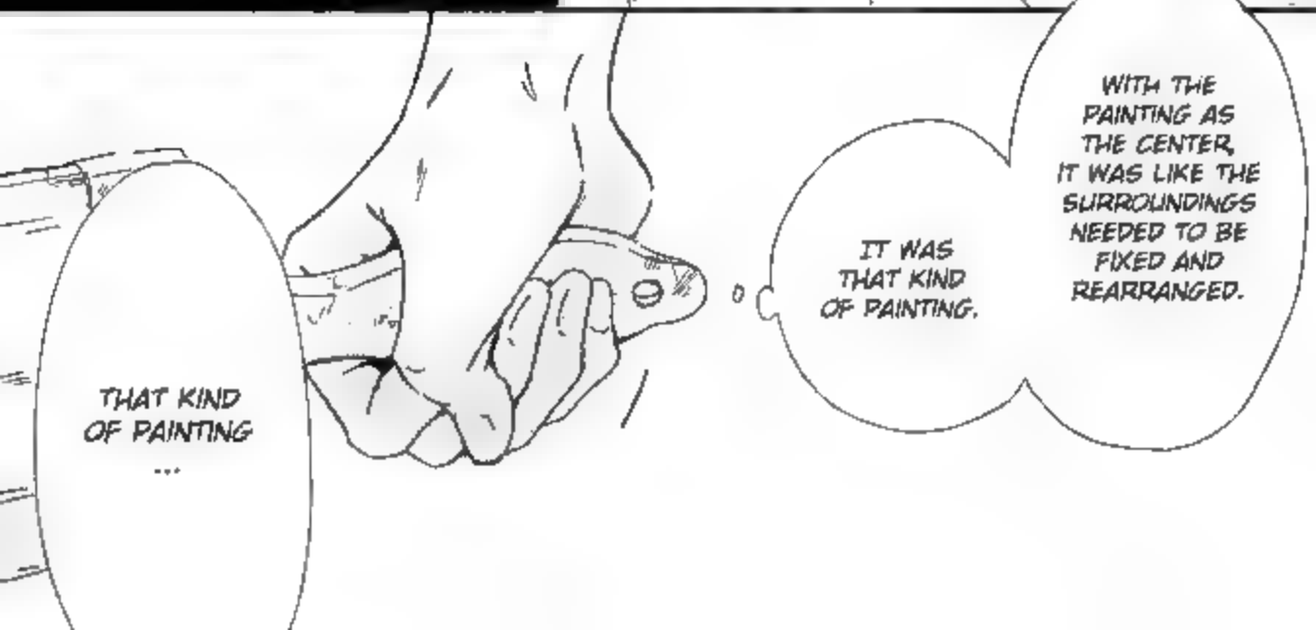
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
YOU ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY.
IF YOU TALK ABOUT IT WHILE YOSHITOMI-SAN'S BUSY WITH WORK THEN YOU WON'T BE EMBARASSED, RIGHT?
TOMORROW YOU SHOULD TAKE YOSHITOMI-SAN'S CAR AND GO TOGETHER TO THE MAIN HOUSE.
SINCE IT'S LIKE THAT

#3
WELL IT'S NOT LIKE I EVER SAID THAT I WANT YOU TO COME AS WELL?!
接住
OK, I UNDERSTAND.
IF IT'S LIKE THAT THEN QUICKLY GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM!
don't keep me from watching my movies
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL!
Shouta

喀噠
銀魂

噔噠
噔噠
噔噠
"I like the colours you use."
"Are you painting flowers?"
嗯哎
啪沙
"You layer the paints one by one"
"and before you know it, it becomes a flower."
"You really do like drawing."
然上

.....
FATHER'S PAINTINGS...
THE BRIGHT COLOURS GAVE OFF A STRONG SENSE OF SELF-ASSERTION.


WITH THE PAINTING AS THE CENTER, IT WAS LIKE THE SURROUNDINGS NEEDED TO BE FIXED AND REARRANGED.
IT WAS THAT KIND OF PAINTING.
THAT KIND OF PAINTING ...

I DON'T LIKE IT AT ALL.
SINCE THE BEGINNING,
I HAVE ALWAYS HATED FATHER'S PAINTINGS.
To Be Continued

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The word used here is one you may've heard of before, **"kanpai"** (乾杯).
It's kind of the Japanese equivalent of "cheers" or "a toast"

The phrase here is also one that you've probably heard of, **"otsukaresama"** (お疲れ様) Literally it means "You are a tired person", but really it's more of a phrase meant to show appreciation for someone's hard work The closest phrase I could think of in English was "Thanks for your trouble"

What Take literally says here is "The feeling from above" or "The feeling of being superior" I wasn't sure if he was referring to himself or to Shouta, but in the Chinese Scans he's addressing Shouta so I followed them

バーズコミックスルチルコレクション「花は咲くか」①～④好評発売中

日高ショーコ

花は咲くか

第27話

HUH?
MY CELLPHONE IS GONE...
No way!?
Crap,
did I forget it in the taxi?
ah-
or maybe the restaurant!?
SAKURAI-SAN,
IT'S SONOKO-SAN.
SHE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.
YES YES, THIS IS INOUE
I'M AT SAKURAI-SAN'S PLACE.

!!!
YES?
IT'S ABOUT 10 MINUTES FROM HERE.
OH BY THE WAY, SAKURAI-SAN!
THE RESIDENCE WITH THE MANSION AND THE FOREST! IS IT CLOSE TO THE STATION?
I CAUSED YOU A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE YESTERDAY NIGHT..
I don't remember anything...
THE STUDIO'S CLOSE AND I WAS ABLE TO RETRIEVE INOUE-KUN.
IT'S FINE
You saved us
THANKS FOR SPECIALLY COMING ALL THE WAY HERE.
AH
YOU COULD COME LATER—
INOUE KNOWS WHERE IT IS.
SURE,
I know the way !!
IF IT'S OK, COULD YOU SHOW ME THE INSIDE? I'VE ALLLLWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN IT BUT—
I really love old mansions~
I'LL LEAVE YESTERDAY'S MATTER TO YOU UNTIL NEXT MONTH.
I UNDER-STAND.
I'LL BRING MY CAMERA WITH ME.
"YOSHITOMI-SAN" OK, GREAT!
ALSO INOUE
YES?
SORRY, I WON'T BE THERE TODAY
BUT I'LL ASK THE CARETAKER SO THAT YOU CAN COME OVER ANYTIME.
HIS NAME IS YOSHITOMI-SAN.

HE ASKED ME IF I WAS INTERESTED IN RENTING IT.
at a special kouhai price he said
IT'LL BE EMPTY FOR 3 YEARS, RIGHT?
SAKURAI-SAN'S MANSION.
WHAT'S YESTERDAY'S MATTER?
?
of course
do your best
ha
I'VE CALMED DOWN ...

THE AIR IS SO CLEAN THAT IT'S LIKE YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WOODS.
THERE ARE A LOT OF BUGS BUT WELL, although I dislike it
THE CRY OF THE BIRDS WAS SO LOUD THAT AT THE BEGINNING I WAS SCARED OF WALKING BACK, BUT I'M USED TO IT NOW
WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE I ALSO FELT THAT
.....
THAT I REALLY LIKE THIS PLACE.

LET'S STOP SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS BY MYSELF.
SFX: CHIRP
FROM NOW ON I HAVE TO THINK TOGETHER WITH YOUICHI.
IT'S LATE, BUT THERE REALLY ARE TOO MANY THINGS WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT EACH OTHER.
WHAT YOUICHI SAID BEFORE ABOUT HIS FATHER...
AND ALSO...
SFX: RUSTLE

AH
yeah
MY RELIABILITY AND CAREER ARE BOTH LACKING AFTER ALL.
NO, NO, THAT ISN'T IT
EVEN IF I TALK, IT'S NO USE.
WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW IS GAINING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE AROUND US.
IF I SPEAK NATURALLY ABOUT MY PAST, IT MIGHT BE EASIER FOR HIM TO SPIT OUT WHAT HE'S THINKING.
LIKE WHEN HE TALKED ABOUT HIS FATHER.

YOUICHI
SFX JOL
AH...
SAKURAI-SAN
GOOD MORNING.
no wait
WHAT ARE YOU DOING SO EARLY?
THERE'S MUD ON YOUR FACE.
AH...
THIS IS

!
SO IT'S LIKE THAT AND HERE I WAS SURE THAT YOU WERE CLEANING JIZOU-SAN...
for the Jizou curse
HMMM
I THOUGHT I'D TRY PAINTING WITH ACRYLIC THIS TIME...
AND TRY MIXING THE GESSO WITH MANY DIFFERENT THINGS...
SO I'M COLLECTING THE RAW MATERIALS FIRST...
I DIDN'T
I DIDN'T MOVE AWAY.
HEY NOW,
WHY DID YOU MOVE AWAY?
ALSO THIS STATUE ISN'T JIZOU
HMMM?
It was a failure but they found it amusing and placed it here and there.
I HEARD THAT IN THE PAST, LODGERS FROM THE SCULPTURE DEPARTMENT MADE THIS.
!

NN...
ちゅ
ぱくっ

a bird...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
EH
I WAS THINKING THAT WE'D GO WATCH A MOVIE IN THE EVENING BUT IT'S STILL EARLY
I CAN GO BACK AND START THE CAR...
WEL...
DO YOU WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE?
I WAS ONLY THINKING THAT IT'D BE A BIT HARD TO STAY HERE, JUST THE TWO OF US.
DO YOU HAVE SOMEWHERE YOU WANT TO GO?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE COMING BACK IN THE EVENING
SO I'VE BEEN PAINTING THIS WHOLE TIME...
sorry
and I should be the one apologizing
NO, NO, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT

a place I want to go...
SFX CHIRP CHIRP
AH OR MAYBE, ALTHOUGH IT'S EARLY, YOU COULD COME TO MY HOUSE?
すっ
Inoue came though so everything's scattered around
AH
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO PUSH YOURSELF SO HARD.
—YOU DON'T
A PLACE I WANT TO GO... WITH SAKURAI-SAN...
UMM.
seriously thinking

IT'S THE JAPANESE-STYLE ROOM INSIDE, RIGHT?
BUT EVERYONE'S THERE.
NO, NOT THAT ONE
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE SOMEWHERE ELSE
THE STUDIO?
WHAT?
I.. WANT SAKURAI-SAN TO COME TO THE STUDIO...
I WANT TO SHOW YOU MY PAINTING.

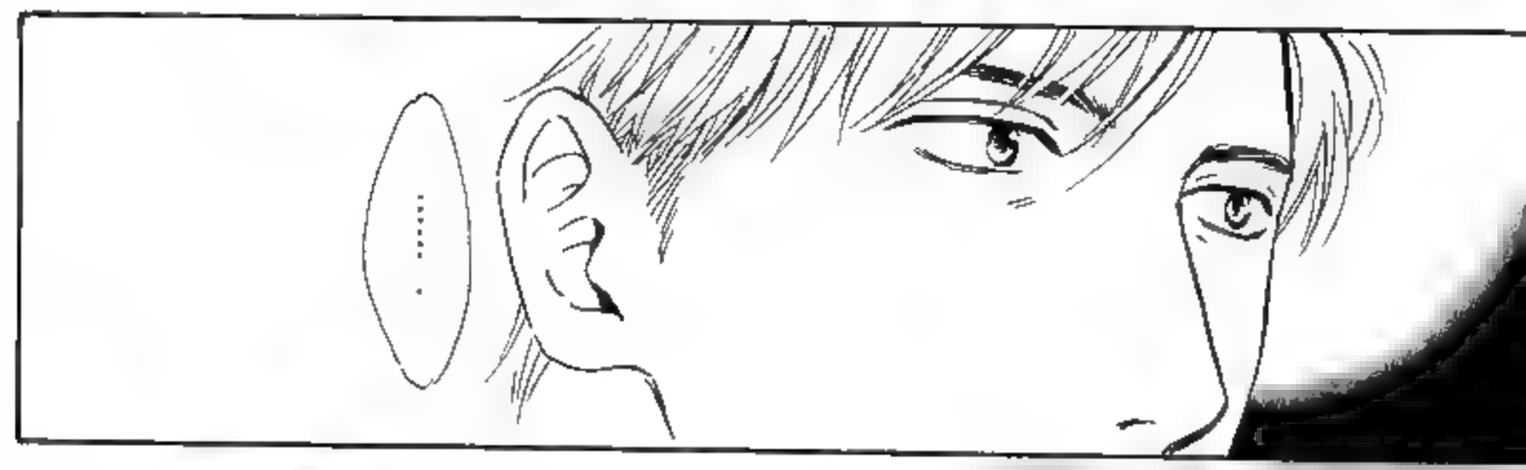
.....
OK I UNDER-STAND
BUT I'M STILL JUST GETTING STARTED, SO THERE'S ONLY THE UNDERCOAT
YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE WITH IT?
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
AH, SO YOU CAN USE IT STRAIGHT AWAY?
I would like to try more than once
IF IT'S POSSIBLE THEN I WANT TO USE IT.
I SEE... IT'S REALLY INTERESTING.
.....

I'm
I'm
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR US TO GO OUT?
IS THIS FINE?
WHAT IS?
IT'S FINE
AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU.
I...
LIKE YOUR PAINTINGS.
BESIDES

—I STILL
EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T PAINTED A WORK I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN...
I'M HAPPY.
Always!
Sakurai-san, why are you always doing this so suddenly!!
HMM?
BECAUSE YOU'RE CUTE WHEN YOU'RE BEING HONEST.
!
.....
.....
kiss

SFX GRAB
WAH...
SO IS IT FINE TO KISS WHEN YOU WANT TO KISS?
IT IS.
EVEN IF IT'S REALLY SUDDEN?
THAT'S RIGHT.
HMMM...
SFX WILD NOISE
SFX STARTLED
UNN...
おびびび
PRESS
PRESS
WAIT...
MY NECK IS.. PAINFUL...
UH
.....!!

THAT SURPRISED ME...
..DIDN'T IT?
cough
IF THAT BIRD JUST NOW WAS ACTUALLY SHOUTA,
EVERYONE WOULD KNOW IN A BLINK OF AN EYE...
THAT'S TRUE...
Wa, wa, they're homos!
Sakurai-san has done something terrible to You-chan
SHOUTA SPEAKER


.....

AS I THOUGHT
DO YOU THINK THAT WE SHOULD MENTION THIS TO "SOMEONE"?

LIKE BEFORE
SHOUTA'S FATHER... WAS IT SHOUICHI-SAN?
WHEN HE CAME HERE, TO IZUMISAWA, DIDN'T IT CAUSE A HUGE UPROAR?
THAT TIME I WAS AN ABSOLUTE OUTSIDER.
I DISLIKED BEING SUDDENLY QUESTIONED "WHO ARE YOU?", BUT I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING. I COULD ONLY BE SILENT AND WATCH THE SITUATION.
NOW ALSO, IN THE SAME WAY, I AM AN OUTSIDER. I'M LIMITED, I DON'T COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND YOU OR THIS HOUSE, AND SO I CONTINUALLY HESITATE AND DOUBT MYSELF...
.....
I HATE THAT.
I...WHEN YOU ARE TROUBLED I WANT TO BE THE CLOSEST ONE TO YOU.

I WANT TO BE WITH YOU HERE ALWAYS.
I WANT TO BE IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT.
HOW SOCIETY SEES US DOESN'T MATTER.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE FINE WITH IT.

MMMM...

HEY MASAFUMI ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS "DISCUSSION" WITH SHOUICHI-SAN IS GOING TO BE ABOUT?
AS USUAL, YOU'RE SLOW, KIPPEI.
HOWEVER YOU CONSIDER IT, IT'LL BE ABOUT YOUICHI.
REALLY? I THINK IT'LL BE ABOUT THIS HOUSE, PERSONALLY—
THAT'S WHY! IF IT'S ABOUT THE HOUSE THEN IT'S ABOUT YOUICHI.
idiot
AH?
?
THE SITUATION OF THIS HOUSE AND
YOUICHI'S FUTURE
TO SHOUICHI-SAN, THESE COME TOGETHER AS ONE SET
.....
NOW I CAN SAY IT.
SHOUICHI-SAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN AGAINST ME LEAVING THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS LAND TO THE NPO.
my old man intervened and settled it out though

JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING THEY ALLOWED US TO DO, WAS BECAUSE OF YOUSUKE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT ..
wasn't the subsidy a lot?
HE SAID YOU LOOKED SUSPICIOUS RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY I USED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE WARD AND THE AGENCY...
you were perfect
AND BECAUSE IT WAS YOUSUKE'S WILL, HE LET US TAKE CARE OF YOUICHI.
BECAUSE HIS LITTLE BROTHER YOUSUKE SAID HE WANTED TO, HE ALLOWED THIS HOUSE IN IZUMISAWA TO BECOME A BOARDING HOUSE.
THAT SHOUICHI-SAN
THIS AND THAT ARE DIFFERENT MATTERS.
SHOUICHI-SAN DOESN'T KNOW THE RECENT YOUICHI, RIGHT?
.....
MAYBE IT'S ABOUT TIME NOW...

AND THE MAINTENANCE COSTS AREN'T SMALL..
IF HE CATCHES ONTO THAT, I WON'T BE ABLE TO SAY ANYTHING.

FIRST THE HOUSE HAS TO BE DEMOLISHED.
WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT HOW TO DEVELOP THE LAND ON THE WESTERN BANK FOR A WHILE NOW COMPARED TO OTHERS, IT STARTED DEVELOPING LATER—
KIPPEI!
I'm building a large apartment at my house though.
YOUICHI
EH

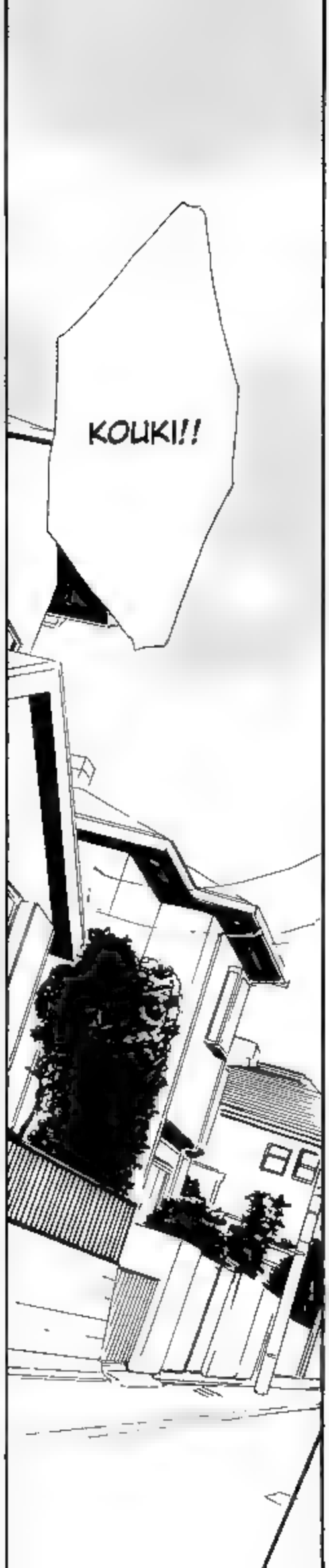
CRAP...
IDIOT
YOUICHI
SINCE...
SINCE WHEN DID YOU START LISTENING...!?
SFX: DROP
SINCE A LONG WHILE AGO. WHAT KIND OF TALK IS THIS?
I AM THE LANDLORD AREN'T I? AND YET I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT THIS!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY SAYING THIS HOUSE HAS TO BE DEMOLISHED!?

I want to be an idol!!
KOUKI!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!
WHAT ABOUT COLLEGE?

STOP ACTING LIKE YOU'RE STILL IN YOUR REBELLIOUS AGE.
SHUT UP, YOU OLD HAG!!
HURRY UP AND EAT!!
otherwise I can't tidy up
don't bother me when I'm watching TV!!

SO NOISY...
AFTER THAT HURRY UP AND GO BACK TO THAT HOUSE!
MY FRIEND'S COMING OVER SOON!
We're planning for a vacation abroad~
What do you want as a souvenir?

DAMNIT
.....
チ!!


KOUKI!!

I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS HUH...
THAT I CAN ONLY RUN TO MY PARENT'S HOUSE IS REALLY
TOO UNCOOL.
AND NOW MY ROOM IS ALREADY A STOREROOM.
SO CRUEL.
UGH
WAS IT ALWAYS THIS SMALL, THIS HOUSE...
...I ONLY LIVED THERE FOR A WHILE BUT
I ALREADY FEEL MORE SETTLED IN THAT HOUSE..
!
THE SCENERY OUTSIDE IS ALSO BORING...

EH?
AH YES, IT'S FUJIMOTO.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TROUBLE.
NO... I WON'T BE WORKING FOR A WHILE...
.....
IT'S THE AGENCY.
...YES
EVEN THOUGH I JUST TEXTED THEM A WHILE AGO SAYING TO PLEASE NOT LOOK FOR ME.
IT'S NOT A MODELING REQUEST?
EXCUSE ME I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND ...
? PAINTING?
YES I HAVE DONE IT BEFORE...
!
PRODUCING INTERIOR DESIGN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING SHOUTA?
HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR PREPARATIONS?
UHN
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

THE YOSHITOMI-KASHIWAGI COMBO MUST FINALLY PAY THE PRICE FOR ALWAYS PAMPERING YOU-CHAN!
SINCE A WHILE AGO ALLLL THEY'VE DONE IS FIGHT.
!

BUT EVEN SO...

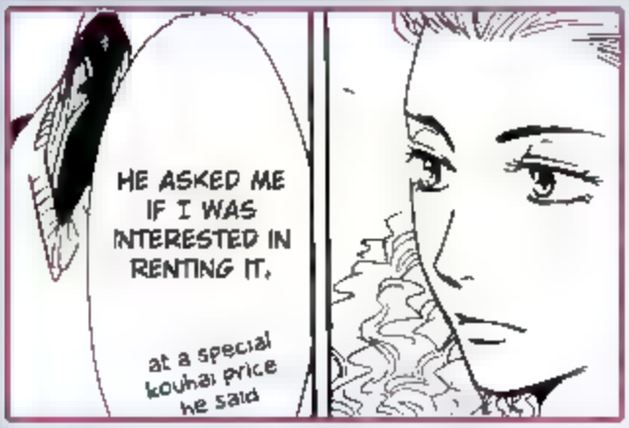
DON'T YOU THINK YOU-CHAN'S REBELLIOUS AGE IS A BIT TOO LATE?

he's already 20

...YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.

To Be Continued

ADDITIONAL NOTES



Kouhai means junior. Basically Sakurai is saying that as his junior Inoue gets a special discount for the rent.

HMMM
I THOUGHT I'D TRY PAINTING WITH ACRYLIC THIS TIME.
AND TRY MIXING THE GESSO WITH MANY DIFFERENT THINGS.
SO I'M COLLECTING THE RAW MATERIALS FIRST

Gesso is a white paint mixture used in artwork as a base for paint and other materials.

Jizou-san is the Japanese name for the Bodhisattva Kshitigarbha who looks after children, travelers, and the underworld. The Jizou curse refers to the 'mizuko kuyo', a memorial rite for stillborn, miscarried, and aborted fetuses.

http://bit.ly/UW5bgg

Three chibi Jizou from the Japanese Garden of the Hasedera Temple, Kamakura

WELL... YES

IF SO THEN-

YES

TAKE-SAN TOO.

YES

THIS WAY THE SECOND FLOOR IS FILLED, NEXT IS UHHH..

DON'T YOU HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS? CONTACT THEM.

SHOUTA!

I'M SAYING

WHAT, BESIDES FUJIMOTO YOU STILL HAVE TWO OTHER FRIENDS!?

I MEAN, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN

eh

I CAN CALL ON TWO PEOPLE

friends

the first floor

I CAN..

poof

I DON'T WANT TO DEMOLISH THAT HOUSE.

BECAUSE I-

I KNOW THAT IT'LL BE DIFFICULT, BUT I WANT TO TRY.

THAT INSTEAD OF THE HOUSE ONLY BEING A BOARDING HOUSE IN NAME,

WE SHOULD TURN IT INTO A REAL BOARDING HOUSE.

VROOOM...

SHOUICHI-SAN,

DEAR!

step step

THE YOSHITOMI'S KIPPEI-SAN JUST CALLED US

HE SAID HE'D BE BRINGING YOUICHI-KUN AND A SAKURAI KAZUAKI-SAN?

AHH

AND THAT SHOU-CHAN, TAKEO-KUN, AND KASHIWAGI MASAFUMI-SAN WOULD ALSO BE COMING...

...WHAT A LARGE GROUP

.....

WELL THEN, I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD DO

slam

.....

ISN'T IT?

THAT'S WHY I'M GOING OUT RIGHT NOW TO BUY SOME TEA CAKES!

I WONDER IF THEY'LL HAVE DINNER? IS SUKIYAKI FINE?

To Be Continued

花は咲くか

第28話

高ショー

VROOOM...

ONE HOUR AGO

EH?!

THE MINAGAWA FAMILY HOUSE? RIGHT NOW??

THAT'S RIGHT

click

HURRY UP AND GET IN

hold-

HOLD ON A SECOND PLEASE. WHY EVEN ME?

IT'S FINE, YOU'RE ON BREAK AREN'T YOU?

SHOUICHI-SAN WAS ALL NOISY, SAYING "BRING THE MAN FROM BEFORE TOO"

it's that

HE WANTS TO INTER-VIEW YOU, DEFINITELY

BY 'INTER-VIEW' YOU MEAN..

A LODGER INTERVIEW...

eh

THERE'S THAT?

NO THERE ISN'T!!

SAKURAI-SAN HAS ALREADY PASSED MY INTERVIEW!!

BECAUSE THE LANDLORD OF THIS HOUSE IS ME!!

YOU'RE NOISY YOUICHI, SIT NEXT TO ME

click

SAKURA, CAN SIT IN THE BACK..

HUH?

I'M HIS CHAPERONE.

I HAVE BUSINESS WITH MY FATHER.

COLLEGE TALK.

what

WHAT ARE THE TWO OF YOU DOING BACK HERE?

THAT'S THE LIMIT.

SAKURAI-KUN, YOU SIT OVER HERE.

SINCE I'M ALSO GOING

click

KASHIWAGI-SAN

THEN I'LL ALSO SIT THERE...

NOT YOU, YOUICHI.

HAVE A GOOD AND PROPER TALK WITH KIPPEI.

.....

YOU KNEW THAT THIS CONVERSATION WOULD COME SOONER OR LATER RIGHT?

ESPECIALLY SINCE SHOUICHI-SAN IS YOUR GUARDIAN.

THE ONE WHO MANAGES THIS HOUSE IS KIPPEI

TRY NOT TO TROUBLE THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU TOO MUCH!

IT'S FINE.

LET'S TALK LATER

.....

I WAS INTENDING TO TROUBLE THEM

IT'S NOT LIKE

Pat

!

.....

VROOOM...

IT ALL SOMEHOW FEELS RUSHED

WHAT A SERIOUS EXPRESSION

Yoroe

HM?

UM

EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SO EASYGOING WHEN TALKING ABOUT BECOMING INDEPENDENT AND RETIRING...

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO SELL THE HOUSE?

I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T HEARD FROM KIPPEI?

THAT HOUSE WAS ACTUALLY SUPPOSED TO BE DEMOLISHED A LONG TIME AGO

?

I WONDER

AFTER ALL, SHOUICHI-SAN WAS ALWAYS SOFT ON YOU...LIKE

IF I THINK ABOUT IT NOW, HE WAS SO YOUNG.

WE WERE THE SAME AGE AS YOUICHI, COMMUTING TO AND FROM THE IZUMISAWA COLLEGE OF ARTS.

WERE STOPPED BY YOUICHI'S FATHER.

HE TOLD THE HEAD FAMILY THAT HE'D MAKE IT INTO A BOARDING HOUSE, THAT HE'D PRESERVE IT...

BUT THOSE PLANS-

IN ORDER TO MAKE THAT HOUSE OURS, EVERYONE DID WHATEVER THEY WERE ABLE TO DO.

WE FORMED SUCH DEEP CONNECTIONS THAT EVEN AFTER YOUSUKE AND AYAKO WERE GONE, WE COULD STILL CONTINUE MAINTAINING THE HOUSE.

I CAN'T FORGET THAT ATMO-SPHERE, EVEN NOW...

TRY TO IMAGINE HAVING A HOME CLOSE TO SCHOOL WHERE YOU COULD COME AND GO AS FREELY AS YOU LIKE

IT SEEMS LIKE A DREAM, DOESN'T IT?

SINCE YOU AND FUJIMOTO-KUN CAME HERE, YOUICHI HAS REALLY CHANGED.

I'M VERY GLAD.

FOR THE PREVIOUS YOUICHI THAT WAS PROBABLY A BURDEN.

.....

HOWEVER-

.....

PLUS WITH THIS TIMING IT'S NOW OR NEVER

IF I ASK AT THIS POINT OF THE CONVERSATION, THEN HE'LL PROBABLY END UP TELLING ME, RIGHT?

FIRST HE TALKS ABOUT YOUICHI'S FATHER AND NOW HE'S THANKING ME...

_WAIT

VROOOM

IT WAS THROUGH AN ACCIDENT THAT YOUICHI LOST HIS PARENTS, RIGHT?

HM?

UM.

peek

BECAUSE OF IT-

BECAUSE OF THAT ACCIDENT, YOUICHI WAS DISTURBED BY SOMETHING-

it gets more dangerous as you get older

YOU SHOULD ALSO TAKE CARE ON ALL-NIGHTERS.

THAT'S RIGHT

WHEN DRIVING BACK FROM A SLEEPLESS NIGHT OF DELIVERING ARTWORKS

?

THIS ATMOSPHERE IS TOO TENNNNSE, I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!!

you're noisy

UHH

VROOOM

NOTHING LIKE THAT'S BEEN DECIDED YET

SHOUTA BE QUIET

IT'S BECAUSE YOSHITOMI-SAN STAYED QUIET TO ME ABOUT DEMOLISHING THE HOUSE AND THEN BUILDING A MANSION TO MAKE A LARGE PROFIT OFF IT

AND THEN TAKEO'S FATHER'S CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

EVEN IF IT HAD, THE ONES TO PROFIT WOULD'VE BEEN THE MINAGAWA HEAD FAMILY!

LETTING CHILDREN LIVE ON SUCH A LARGE PLOT OF LAND ALONE- THEY WOULDN'T ALLOW SUCH A LUXURY, RIGHT?

IT CAN'T BE HELPED

.....

TUT'A

NO, NO, I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT IT, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!

WELL- EITHER WAY,

I WAS THINKING THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN BEFORE MY GRADUATION

BESIDES, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE UNCLE YOUSUKE DIED...

AH

IT'S REALLY NICE, THIS HOUSE

.....

THAT'S RIGHT! SO THAT'S THE REASON BEHIND THIS TIMING! SHOUTA'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION!!

JUST WHEN I WAS WONDERING WHY HE SUDDENLY CALLED US RECENTLY... IT ACTUALLY WASN'T SUDDEN AT ALL...

EHHH YOU ONLY REALIZED THAT NOW?

so slow

A HOUSE FROM THE TAISHO PERIOD?

I LIKE THESE KINDS OF THINGS, YOU KNOW

I ALSO LIKE IT

ALL OF IT

HOW DID HE NEGOTIATE WITH UNCLE SHOUICHI?

HM?

FATHER, HE-

THE BOARDING HOUSE.

SINCE HE DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE TORN DOWN, HE MADE IT INTO A BOARDING HOUSE. HE EVEN MADE THE SURROUNDING FOREST INTO PROTECTED GROUND, DIDN'T HE?

I WON'T LET THIS HOUSE BE DEMOLISHED...
WITH THIS DETERMINATION IN HIS CHEST, YOUICHI VISITS THE MAIN HOUSE.
BUT EVEN THOUGH SAKURAI ACCOMPANIES HIM BY HIS SIDE TO GIVE HIM STRENGTH...
綻放的戀情
第29話

.....
AH...
I've come back but
I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD I DO...
"THE NEXT TIME WE MEET"
"YOU GO FIRST"
"I BEG OF YOU SO"
"FORGET WHAT I SAID"
clack
!
HUH?
clack
clack
IF MINAGAWA IGNORES ME BECAUSE OF THIS I'M GOING TO LOSE FACE HUH....
Haaa
WAY TOO UNCOOL
EVEN IF I DECIDED TO LEAVE THINGS ALONE FOR A WHILE I...
WHY'D I TELL HIM TO "FORGET" ...

ehhh_
WHERE DID EVERYONE GO?
.....
IS IT LOCKED?
?
IMMENSE
HOUSE
- AN UNBE-LIEV-ABLY
...IT GIVES OFF A HORRIBLY UNCOMFORTABLE FEELING...

SILENCE
ALSO, SINCE A WHILE AGO...
NO ONE'S BEEN SAYING ANYTHING...
obviously a servant-like person brought it to us.
And why tea.
"...EH"
"IT IS"
"IS THIS THE MAIN HOUSE?"
glance
SO YOUICHI ...
GREW UP IN THIS KIND OF PLACE HUH..
IT WAS DESIGNED BY A FRIEND OF MINE
HEhhhh ...
SOME PARTS OF THE OLD HOUSE ARE STILL REMAINING SO I'LL SHOW IT TO YOU LATER
AMAZ-ING
That person's different from Yousuke, he's the type who doesn't concern himself with old things.
Sparkle-
WHEN SHOUICHI-SAN SUCCEEDED THE FAMILY HE REBUILT THE HOUSE.
I WAS IMAGINING A MORE OLDER, A MORE ANTIQUATED HOUSE,
LIKE THE IZUMISAWA HOUSE...

YOUICHI
... AFTER THEM THERE'S SHOUTA AND...
SHOUICHI-SAN'S ELDEST SON AND DAUGHTER ARE BOTH OVERSEAS.
RIGHT NOW THERE'S SHOUICHI-SAN ALONG WITH HIS WIFE YOSHIE-SAN, SO TWO PEOPLE.
WELL, SOMEDAY THEY'LL COME BACK TO TAKE OVER THE COMPANY I SUPPOSE...
Since the company belongs to the family *
... WHERE IS THE REST OF THE FAMILY? HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE LIVING HERE IF I MAY ASK?
But are we really still inside the 23 wards? *

*Tokyo has 23 special wards, which make up the most populous part of the city. These include Shibuya and Shinjuku.

* Hidaka-sensei uses the phrase "Sanzoku" (=族) which means "Three kinds of relatives" (e.g. Grandparents, parents, and children.)

.....
THOUGH I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING A HOUSE LIKE THIS...
SAKURAI-SAN
SAKURAI ...
shove
thud
They saw me
hmmm
COMPARED TO WHAT ADULTS THINK-
CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS MORE SENSITIVE TO THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND THEM, SO THEY MUST'VE HAD MANY DIFFICULTIES

I want to try living in a beautiful apartment
YOU'LL BE IN OSAKA FOR THREE YEARS RIGHT?
AND YOU'RE GOING TO RENT OUT YOUR PLACE RIGHT? IF SO THEN I WANT TO RENT IT!!
Ha ?
Hey-
WAIT A MINUTE SHOUT A I WAS FIRST-
SAY SAKURAI-SAN, YOUR APARTMENT, COULDN'T YOU LEND IT TO ME?
UM NO... ?
I have loans to pay you know
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR YOU, I'M ONLY RENTING IT OUT TO PEOPLE WHO CAN PROPERLY PAY THE RENT.
I CAN ALSO PAY PROPERLY
PLUS I'LL BE LIVING WITH TAKE-SAN SO THE RENT WILL BE HALVED
EH
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING SUDDENLY ...
Take
WELL IT'S BECAUSE
IF THE IZUMISAWA HOUSE IS GOING TO BE GONE THEN WE HAVE TO QUICKLY THINK ABOUT WHAT'S NEXT OTHERWISE-
YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT

I'M GOING TO SPEAK TO UNCLE SO COOPERATE WITH ME ON THIS
I SAID IT BEFORE, DIDN'T I! THAT THE HOUSE WOULD STAY AS A BOARDING HOUSE
!
YOUICHI

Click
!
IF WE DON'T TRY-
I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING
impossible
impossible
EHHH,
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
THERE'S NO WAY YOU-CAN CAN DO THAT KIND OF THING
WHAT SHOUTA,
SO YOU ACTUALLY CAME.
HN?

LISTEN.
EAT DINNER HERE AND THEN GO,
UNDER-STAND?
!
I DON'T WANT TO
...WHAT, IS IT BAD FOR ME TO COME HERE?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT. STOP LASHING OUT AT PEOPLE.
YOSHIE EVEN WENT OUT TO THE SUPER-MARKET WHEN SHE HEARD YOU WERE COMING.

gulp
...WHICH REMINDS ME, KIPPEI
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT. TELL IT TO HER YOURSELF
If that's all you want to say then I'm going now
TRY TO READ THE ATMO-SPHERE A BIT.
THAT PERSON IS ALWAYS TOO CAUTIOUS AROUND ME SO I DON'T WANT TO MEET HER.

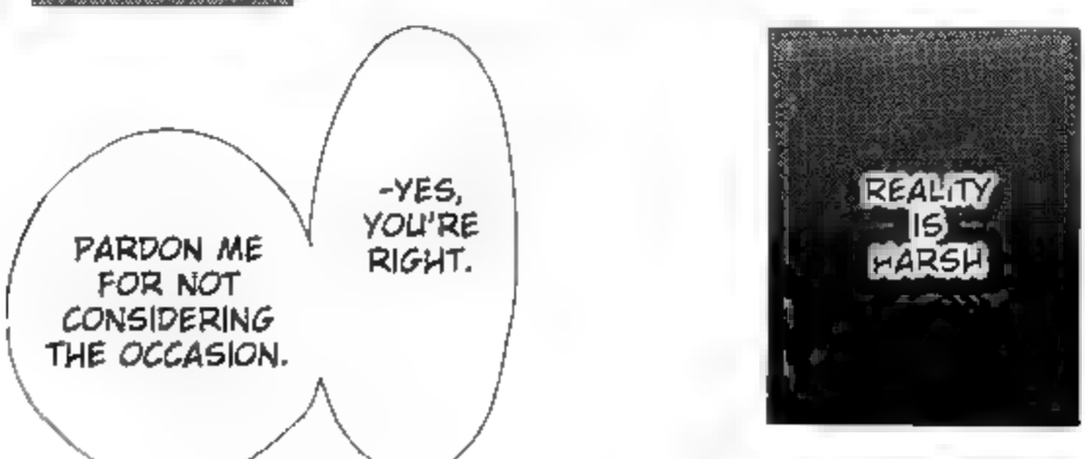
drip
drip
WHAT'S THE MEANING BEHIND THIS?
THERE ARE MUCH TOO MANY GUESTS HERE.

glance
FIRSTLY -
Well no but
CERTAINLY I DID SAY THAT ONCE, BUT I DIDN'T TELL YOU TO BRING HIM TODAY
BRING HIM OVER, YOU SAID!
Ah
BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY BEFORE THAT YOU WANTED TO SPEAK WITH SAKURAI AGAIN!
Ehhh-
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING BUT UH WELL...
HE HAS NO RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MINAGAWA HOUSE
.....
Even though the "outsider" is right here - he's still speaking so bluntly.
WHEN I CALLED BOTH YOU AND KATSURAGI OVER, YOU SHOULD'VE REALIZED FROM THE TIMING.
DON'T BRING IN OUTSIDERS.

hmph-
YOUICHI...
BUT-
I DON'T DISLIKE IT WHEN THE SITUATION'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND
hmmm-
HE'S A PERSON WHO SAYS EVERYTHING PLAINLY HUH
CERTAINLY ALL OF THAT'S TRUE
WELL,

BECAUSE I KNOW I WANT TO BE BY HIS SIDE...
EVEN SO, I DON'T WANT TO BE CALLED AN "OUTSIDER",

THAT'S WHAT I THINK BUT
"DO YOU THINK THAT WE SHOULD TELL "SOMEONE" ABOUT US?"


-YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.
PARDON ME FOR NOT CONSIDERING THE OCCASION.
REALITY IS HARSH

smile-
I NEED TO KEEP THIS A CIVIL INTERACTION BETWEEN ADULTS TO THE BITTER END,
IN ORDER TO NOT GIVE YOUICHI ANY TROUBLE.
YES, I'LL BE WAITING.
MY APOLOGIES.
NEXT TIME I'LL BE THE ONE TO GO TO IZUMISAWA TO CALL ON YOU.
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ON ME AT ANOTHER TIME.
THEN TODAY I WILL LEAVE FIRST.
rattle
!!
Grab
SINCE THERE'S STILL MORE TO DO AFTER THIS-
EH...?
SAKURAI
IT'S FINE. DON'T GO BACK.
YOU SHOULD BE HERE AS WELL.

THESE ARE ONLY WORDS, BUT SAKURAI IS NOT AN OUTSIDER
I WAS THE ONE WHO GOT HIM INVOLVED WITH THE MINAGAWA HOUSE...
AND KIPPEI WAS THE ONE WHO INVITED HIM TO BE A LODGER
.....
KASHIWAGI -SAN
SHOUICHI-SAN

AND ALSO HE
KNOWS ABOUT YOUSUKE'S SITUATION
SHOUICHI-SAN, SAKURAI IS LIKE HOW I WAS IN THE PAST.
JUST AS I DID, HE FORMED A DEEP CONNECTION WITH THE IZUMISAWA RESIDENCE AND THE MINAGAWA HOUSE AND CAME TO BE LIKE ONE OF THE FAMILY, SO TO SPEAK...
SHOUTA AND TAKEO TOO... IT WAS BECAUSE THEY FOUND HIM TO THEIR LIKING THAT THEY WELCOMED HIM INTO THE HOUSE.
Now that he says it like that I guess that was what happened

.....
AND THROUGH-OUT ALL THIS HE
.....
HAS BECOME THE CURRENT YOUICHI'S STRONGEST SUPPORTER
.....
KASHIWAGI-SAN

I AM...
GRAB
!!
SHOVE
THUMP!
IT'S EXACTLY AS KASHIWAGI-SAN SAYS

SAKURAI-SAN IS INDISPENSABLE TO THIS HOUSE
PLEASE ALWAYS BE BY MY SIDE
UNCLE SHOUICHI-SAN
.....
...AH...
OK
THEN
I'm here

"WHAT YOU CAN DO, AT MOST, IS TAKE OVER WHAT YOUR DECEASED FATHER LEFT BEHIND."
"WHAT YOU CAN-"
...WHAT IS IT
THE LAST TIME UNCLE CAME TO THE IZUMISAWA HOUSE YOU TOLD ME, DIDN'T YOU
I COULD... DO NOTHING BUT BEAR THE BRUNT OF THOSE WORDS AS THEY WERE
IT WAS VERY PAINFUL
I AM ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
I, MORE THAN ANYTHING, AM BAD AT LISTENING TO PEOPLE SPEAK OF MY FATHER.

WHENEVER UNCLE SPOKE ABOUT FATHER, IT FELT LIKE I WAS DISAPPEARING.
THE PEOPLE WHO HAD LIKED FATHER -
WHEN THEY REMINISCED ABOUT THEIR MEMORIES I COULD THINK OF NOTHING BUT "MINAGAWA YOUSUKE" ...
I NO LONGER KNEW WHAT I MYSELF WANTED TO DO
BUT-
IT'S DIFFERENT NOW

I REALLY LIKE THAT HOUSE
AND PAINTING TOO, I'VE ALWAYS ALWAYS LIKED IT MORE THAN EVERYONE THINKS
...
WELL, ALTHOUGH I DON'T HAVE MY FATHER'S ABILITY TO DO IT AS AN OCCUPATION
AND ALSO-
.....
squeeze
.....
!

ALSO..
I, WHO HAS NEITHER PERSONAL CONNECTIONS NOR TALENT,
DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH OF "MINAGAWA YOUSUKE"
TAKING OVER WHAT FATHER LEFT BEHIND,
I KNOW HOW DIFFICULT OF A TASK THAT IS
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW
EVEN SO, I WANT TO TRY
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO TRY

I'M AWARE THAT WHAT I'M SAYING IS SELFISH BUT-
PLEASE DON'T DEMOLISH THAT HOUSE
rustle

stomp
rustle
rustle
HEY HEY-
WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?
stomp
ARE YOU LISTENING OR NOT?
JUST NOW!
DIDN'T YOU-CHAN TALK ABOUT A YEAR'S WORTH OF THINGS!?
Flip
Flip
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO WRAPPED UP IN YOURSELF-
Flip
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS
YOU'RE BEING NOISY SHOUTA.
YOUICHI!

IT'S YOUSUKE'S WILL.
DEMOLISHING THAT HOUSE WASN'T DECIDED BY ME.
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING TO THE VERY END IT HAD ALREADY BEEN DECIDED,
BY YOUSUKE
EVERYTHING
To Be Continued

花は咲くか

第30話

日高ショーコ

ルチルコレクション
「花は咲くか」①～④
好評発売中

I'LL FACE THIS BY MYSELF- YOUICHI DECIDES, BUT SAKURAI CAN'T LEAVE HIM ALONE. HOWEVER, WHAT SHOULD HE DO AS AN "ADULT"? THE HESITATING SAKURAI WILL ...?

YOUICHI

...
SAKURAI
-SAN,

COULD
YOU GO
BACK FIRST
WITHOUT
ME?

I WILL
STAY HERE
AND SEE
IF I CAN
DISCUSS
THIS WITH
UNCLE
SHOUICHI
-SAN.

IT'S
PROBABLY
BEST IF I'M
THE ONLY WHO
ASKS HIM.

UP TO NOW I'VE
ALWAYS CLOSED MY
EYES TO EVERYTHING,
I THINK THE TIME
HAS COME FOR ME
TO FACE THAT

SAKURAI-SAN,

I'M FINE SO...

YOUICHI

PLANNING

It's possible. After all, even though I've finished handing over my duties

WELL... IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE EASILY SOLVED.

tap

tap

tap

THERE'S BEEN NO WORD FROM YOUICHI.

THE SCARS THAT "MINAGAWA YOUSUKE" LEFT ARE SO BIG THAT

EVERYONE IS AT A LOSS ABOUT WHAT TO DO.

"SAKURAI"

"THAT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT"

"THE ONE WHO DECIDED ON DEMOLISHING THE HOUSE WAS YOUSUKE"

#####...

THAT DAY YOUSUKE HAD TO DELIVER A PAINTING

!

ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, IT SEEMS THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID THE ON-COMING CAR, THEY WENT OUT OF THE LANE.

THEY WERE PULLING AN ALL-NIGHTER SO IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE EXHAUSTION PILED UP

OR PER-HAPS

THEY WERE IN A HURRY WHILE BRINGING AYAKO TO THE HOSPITAL AND SOMETHING HAPPENED ON THE ROAD

WHICHEVER IT WAS, THE NEWS OF THEIR DEATHS CAME SUDDENLY

IT'S TRUE THAT STRANGE RUMORS WERE PASSED AROUND

THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO SPREAD THEIR TASTELESS SPECULATIONS AS GOSSIP

HOWEVER I DIDN'T THINK THAT THE VERY YOUNG YOUICHI WOULD HEAR THOSE,

NOR DID I REALIZE LATER ON.

.....

NOW, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, WITH MY ABILITIES...

SWEEPING AWAY YOUICHI'S DOUBTS TOWARDS THE ACCIDENT WOULD BE DIFFICULT, DON'T YOU THINK?

"HE KNOWS ABOUT YOUSUKE'S SITUATION"

DOES THAT MEAN HE'S ENTRUSTING THIS TO ME

WHO DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE PAST?

"WHAT HE NEEDS IS A VOICE FROM THE OUTSIDE"

!

Kashiwagi-san has too much confidence in me

SO I CAN THINK ABOUT THIS FROM AN OBJECTIVE POINT OF VIEW?

hmhm

OR IS IT THAT, I DON'T HAVE AN EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO "MINAGAWA YOUSUKE".

tap

tap

tap

.....

.....

BUT THESE KINDS OF THINGS AREN'T OUTLINED BY THEORIES.

WITH EVERY LITTLE THING, HE'LL REMEMBER AND HIS MEMORIES WILL OVERWHELM HIM

BUT EVEN SO EMBRACING HIM ONCE WON'T MAKE HIS DOUBTS QUICKLY DISAPPEAR

IN REALITY YOUICHI PROBABLY UNDERSTANDS

AND NOW, WITH SUCH A WILL APPEARING ..

IF IT WAS ME I DEFINITELY-

COULDN'T BEAR IT

GRAB

EMAIL, EMAIL...

AS I THOUGHT, HE HASN'T REPLIED . .

I, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I MESSAGED HIM AGAIN?

Once a day?

. . . . . .

what should I do...

I can't leave him alone...

He probably wants to be alone until they reach a solution, but even so

. . . . . .

YES HELLOOOO

cha cha cha chaaan ♫

Ah

SAKURAI-SAN? WHAT'S UP?

We're in the middle of dinner though.

Thank you Take-san

Eat this too It's good for you.

Look Fujimoto.

Eh

YOU -CHAN?

I TOLD YOU, HE'S STILL LOCKED UP IN THE STUDIO.

YEAH

I DON'T KNOW-

HE'S PAINTING, ISN'T HE?

EVEN IF YOU DON'T WORRY THAT MUCH WHEN HE FEELS HUNGRY HE'LL COME OUT, WON'T HE?

I TOLD YOU, JUST LET HIM BE

THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.

COULD YOU GIVE ME THE PHONE?

SHOUTA

IT'S BECAUSE TAKE-SAN ACTS LIKE THIS, PAMPERING PEOPLE, THAT YOU-CHAN DOES-

BAM

GRAB

BATHS AS WELL, I TELL HIM TO BATHE EVERYDAY.

Through the phone

So please don't worry

Ah

IF IT'S FOOD I SUPPLY HIM WITH MEALS!

SAKURAI-SAN, YOU ALWAYS READ TOO MUCH INTO THE SITUATION OR RATHER, YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING TOO CAREFULLY ABOUT THE OTHER PERSON, IS WHAT I THINK BUT

FUJI-MOTO?

YES IT'S ME. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN, BUT MAY I SAY SOMETHING?

beep beep

Did something happen?

?

Ahh

SAKURAI -SAN?

!

THAT KIND OF CAUTIOUSNESS, PLEASE DISCARD IT THIS TIME.

YOU'RE AN ADULT SO

IF YOU DON'T STRUT AROUND BEING ALL DEPENDABLE NOW, THEN WHEN WILL YOU?

THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME SO HURRY UP AND SUPPORT MINAGAWA SOMEHOW

AFTER ALL I DON'T WANT THIS HOUSE TO BE DESTROYED EITHER.

.....

...YOU'RE RIGHT.

I REALLY DO THINK THAT.

slurp slurp

slurp slurp

mh hmh

YES

IT'S ABOUT WORK ..

speaking normally with Sakurai-san.

Fujimoto is

mh hmh

LATER THEN,

.. IF YOU'RE AWARE OF IT YOURSELF THEN IT'S FINE.

ALSO, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH SAKURAI-SAN.

COULD YOU MAKE SOME TIME FOR ME?

beep

squeeze
squeeze
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE
YOU'VE REALLY GROWN UP HUH.
YOU'VE EVEN SOMEHOW BECOME MORE PEACEFUL.
WHAT IS IT?
PUSH
!?
...WHAT,
HM ?
NO-THING
WHAT IS IT WITH THOSE EXPRESSIONS ?
grin
grin
RATTLE
!
WHAT'S WITH THAT CONDESCENDING ATTITUDE!! IN THE FIRST PLACE, THIS PROBLEM IS ABOUT YOUR HOUSE, BUT EVEN SO I HAD TO, TOWARDS MINAGAWA...
YES, YES
YOU'RE HUNGRY, AREN'T YOU? IT'S FINE YOU CAN EAT ALL OF THIS.
Yoshitomi-san's meat and potato stew.
You just got tired of eating it didn't you?
Ah give back my cellphone!
.....

...YOUICHI

UP TO NOW I'VE ALWAYS CLOSED MY EYES TO EVERYTHING. I THINK THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO FACE THAT.

A BIT OF IT WAS..

BACK THEN I WONDER IF I SAW IT ..

EHHH?!

Yes.

Be careful over there.

ARE YOU SERIOUS? SERIOUSLY, IS THIS AMOUNT OF RENT OK...

FIXED TERM OF THREE YEARS. RENT CONTRACT

OFFICIAL FORM

OI INOUE!

HURRY UP AND GIVE US A HAND HERE.

But this is kind of,

ARE YOU SURE THIS ISN'T TOO CHEAP..

For such a good property

COULD IT BE THAT GHOSTS WILL APPEAR..

Look

I SAID IT'D BE AT A SPECIAL KOUHAI PRICE DIDN'T I?

IN RETURN..

peel

THEN WHERE WILL I PUT MY BOOKS..

Then..

AS IF I KNOW

EHHHH

I knew this was suspicious!

WAIT A ...?!

Why don't you borrow some space at a storehouse?

ALL FULL

MOST OF THE THINGS IN THIS ROOM ARE GOING TO BE LEFT HERE SO

Mainly books

PLEASE LOOK AFTER THEM UNTIL I COME BACK.

EHH?? WHAT IS THIS,

Just so you know. I haven't made any soba.

WILL ALL OF THIS EVEN FIT IN YOUR ROOM??

IT'LL FIT, IT'LL FIT.

Most of it was left behind anyway

SO YOU WERE GOING TO PULL SUCH A FULL -SCALE MOVE?

OHH,

PLEASE TREAT ME FAVORABLY

HELLO!

He's a big person.

Ah

YOSHITOMI-SAN, THIS GUY'S FROM THE SAME COMPANY AS ME, HIS NAME IS INOUE.

INOUE YUZURU.

BY THE WAY THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT-

AH I UNDER-STAND

LATER THERE'S GOING TO BE ONE MORE PERSON COMING TO HELP OUT, SO PLEASE TREAT US WELL.

summer nights.

COULD YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUICHI?

.....

MASAFUMI IS TELLING ME TO ENTRUST THIS TO YOU.

EVER SINCE WE CAME BACK FROM THE MAIN HOUSE, YOUICHI'S LOCKED HIMSELF UP IN THE STUDIO.

IT SEEMS LIKE HE STILL SHOWS UP TO COLLEGE,

Fujimoto's words

BUT HE WON'T SHOW HIS FACE TO ME.

waft

Thank you for the delicious meal

Given to Takeo

Sneakily goes to take baths

tweet

chirp chirp chirp

chirp chirp

SAKURAI

.....

IN ORDER TO SAVE THIS HOUSE, HE'S DESPERATELY TRYING TO THINK OF SOMETHING-

Plus from the beginning Youichi preferred being alone.

ISN'T IT JUST THAT HE WANTS TO SORT OUT HIS THOUGHTS?

HE'S ALSO BEEN IGNORING MY TEXTS.

EVEN IF YOU TELL ME THIS . .

THE ONE WHO TOLD YOUSUKE TO DRAW UP THAT WILL WAS ME.

IT'S ABOUT THAT WILL BUT,

WELL THAT . .

IT . .

WELL NO...

HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS

EH

.....

I TOLD HIM TO LEAVE A FEW LINES FOR AYAKO AND YOUICHI'S SAKES.

SO THAT THE BOARDING HOUSE AND THE ART THAT HE'D WORKED SO HARD FOR WOULDN'T BE CONFISCATED BY THE MAIN FAMILY.

I JUST GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE MOOD.

YOUSUKE LAUGHED AND SAID "YOU'RE RIGHT". THAT WAS ALL HE SAID.

IT MIGHT'VE BEEN AROUND THE TIME WHEN YOUSUKE STARTED CLAMORING ABOUT MAKING THIS A BOARDING HOUSE...

OR WAS IT AROUND THE TIME WHEN THAT GUY'S PAINTINGS SOMEHOW WON A PRIZE, AND ART GALLERIES FROM ALL OVER WERE CALLING OUT TO HIM.

HONESTLY I DON'T REMEMBER IT THAT WELL BUT...

I WAS ONLY A BRAT WHO WANTED TO KEEP MESSING AROUND WITH YOUSUKE-

I ONLY WANTED A PROMISE THAT THIS HOUSE WOULD ALWAYS EXIST.

TO THINK THAT IT'D CAUSE YOUICHI SO MUCH-

PLUS HE EVEN DESIGNATED YOUICHI'S COURSE OF LIFE, UP TO POST-GRADUATION?!

Even though it doesn't have legal effect, the psychological effect is amazing.

THEN YOSHITOMI-SAN HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

I KNOW THAT BUT-

I KNOW,

ANYWAY AS I SAID, IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE MOOD. I DIDN'T THINK HE'D ACTUALLY TAKE MY WORDS TO HEART.

I DIDN'T KNOW.

DID YOSHITOMI-SAN KNOW THE CONTENTS OF THE WILL?

YOSHITOMI -SAN

WHENEVER I THINK THAT IT COULD'VE BEEN MY FAULT I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING.

AND EVEN WHEN THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN I WANT TO YELL AT YOUICHI, MY VOICE WON'T COME OUT.

THE WILL, THE ACCIDENT . .

I HAVE TOO MANY FEELINGS OF OBLIGATION TOWARDS YOUICHI.

SAKURAI -SAN

ARE YOU FREE RIGHT NOW?

YEAH,

I'LL COME SOON.

YOSHITOMI -SAN

...

SO BASICALLY YOSHITOMI-SAN IS UPSET WITH YOUICHI RIGHT NOW.

From a parental point of view.

Ahh

JUST TELL HIM "THAT'S ENOUGH" AND DRAG HIM OUT OF THE STUDIO

..

We'll keep it a secret from Masafumi.

YOUICHI IS MUCH STRONGER THAN YOSHITOMI-SAN BELIEVES.

EVEN THOUGH ALL OF THESE WON'T BE SOLVED EASILY-

THE SITUATION WITH HIS FATHER, THE SITUATION WITH THE WILL, AND THE SITUATION WITH THIS HOUSE.

THAT GUY IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO THINK OF A WAY TO CHANGE THINGS. THAT'S WHY HE'S STAYING IN THE STUDIO.

EVEN SO HE'S STOPPED RUNNING,

AND HE'S PREPARING IN ORDER TO PROCEED IN THE FUTURE.

I'M FACED WITH SOMETHING I'VE NEVER FACED BEFORE

EVEN THOUGH I HAVE THINGS I WANT TO DO AT THE MOMENT WITH SHOES

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING

CLOSING MY EYES TO THAT, I DON'T WANT TO LIVE LIKE THAT ANYMORE.

THE POSSIBILITY THAT I MIGHT'VE BEEN ABANDONED-

"I HEARD"

"THAT IT MIGHT EVEN BE A LOVERS' SUICIDE"

BUT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING

roll

I HAVE NO TALENT

I KNEW THAT BUT

THAT'S WHY MORE...

THUD

YOUICHI

!

RISES

..I'VE COME FOR YOU,

OPEN THE DOOR.

To Be Continued

バーズコミックスルチルコレクション「花は咲くか」1～4好評発売中

日高ショーコ

I want to continue living in this house—

Youichi is struggling against himself with these strong feelings he had never before.

花は咲くか 31

OPEN THE DOOR,

YOUICHI.

.....

BLANK

AH.

MESSY

MESSY

.....

CRASH!

NO-

WAIT

I'M NOT-

AH!

clatter

.....

crash

CLATTER

COLLAPSE

THUD

CLATTER

.....

I SAID OPEN THIS, YOUICHI!!

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

BANG

startled

nudge

nudge

IF ONLY I WAS ABLE FORM MY PAINTING JUST A LITTLE BIT.

I'M SURE I'LL ONLY SHOW HIM MY WEAK SIDE AND I DON'T WANT TO BE SPOILED BY HIM EITHER

rustle

EVEN IF

I SEE SAKURA-SAN NOW, HE'LL ONLY GET DISAPPOINTED.

.....

opens

WHAT SHOULD I SAY.

stagger

HEY,

UMM,

I READ YOUR MAIL BUT...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

HELP ME MOVE MY THINGS.

THAT...

UMM...

.....

HE'S MAD.

EH...?

I HAVE A LOT OF LUGGAGE

BUT NOT ENOUGH OF PEOPLE TO HELP ME, SO...

MOVE?

YEAH.

I'M DOING IT NOW.

WELL, ABOUT OSAKA.

IT SEEMS LIKE I DON'T NEED TO BE THERE.

WA.

I WAS SURE THAT THIS WAS ABOUT THE PREVIOUS CONVERSATION ?

.....?

Ah

BEFORE THAT, SPREAD AN INSECTICIDE SHEET FIRST!

YOU FOLD THEM LIKE THIS AND THEN PUT THEM HERE

Like this!

Like this!

SAKURA-SAN IS SO METICULOUS, HUH—

THIS ONE!

THUD

TAKE EVERYTHING OUT!

THIS IS INOUE

YOUCHI,

It's been a long time

HELLO!

WE MET BEFORE IN A PHOTOSHOOT.

!!

PULL

SAKURAI-SAN.

IS YOU-CHAN OKAY ALREADY?

SHOUTA.

You don't remember? Well that's fine

Is that so?

He's looking this way

.....

I JUST THOUGHT HE'LL CALM DOWN SOONER OR LATER

HOW? WELL

THAT'S IT?

HUH?

JUST HOW DID YOU MAKE HIM GO OUT WITH YOU?

SINCE THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF HIM LEAVING THE ROOM.

OH, WELL!

...HEY,

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID TO YOU THE FIRST TIME WE MET?

EH?

!!!

WH

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

YOSHITOMI-SAN AND KASHIWAGI-SAN ARE BEING FUSSY.

THEY WORRY ABOUT YOU-CHAN TOO MUCH AND NOW IT BACKFIRED

IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY SAKURAI-SAN IS SPECIAL TO YOU-CHAN

FLINCH

ABOUT SAKURAI-SAN NOT ASKING ANYTHING ABOUT OUR FAMILY, RIGHT?

REALLY?

YEAH.

"I DON'T THINK IT'S STRANGE IF YOU'RE NOT LIVING IN THE SHADOWS OF YOUR FAMILY."

"AS LONG AS YOU HAVE WORK, YOU CAN LIVE ALONE."

THAT TIME..

I THOUGHT, "AH, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS."

ANYWAY, IT GAVE ME A PEACE OF MIND.

I WAS ABLE TO THINK THAT THINGS WILL WORK OUT SOMEHOW EVEN FOR MYSELF.

I REMEMBERED IT WHEN I WATCHED YOU-CHAN AT THE MAIN HOUSE.

What are they talking about?

IT WORKED OUT FOR US OR SHOULD I SAY, I THOUGHT YOU BEING HERE AT OUR SIDE MIGHT CHANGE SOMETHING...

SAKURAI-SAN, YOU DO THINGS AT YOUR OWN PACE.

WHAT'S WITH THAT PAUSE?

YOU DON'T REMEMBER?

WELL.

YEAH.

This is why they call you an old man.

.....

.....

...IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT NOW.

...BUT...

...I DON'T THINK I CAN MANAGE ALONE ANYMORE.

IT SEEMS I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH WHEN I'M ALL ALONE.

NOW...

I glance

He looked this way

Whirl

Whirl

EXCUSE ME.

IS ANYONE HERE?

I'm glad

HELLO!

AH!

!!!

YES?

WHO IS IT?

THIS IS MINAGAWA-SAN'S HOUSE, RIGHT?

MY NAME IS TACHIBANA SONOKO. I'M FROM THE SAME COMPANY AS SAKURAI, WHO IS LODGING HERE.

.....

.....?

ERR...

UMM...

What is it?

I'VE BOUGHT INGREDIENTS FOR SOBA—

smile

WELCOME

OH?

TAKEO'S GUEST?

!!!

STARE

?

?

STARE

?

TAKE-SAN, TOO.

? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SONOKO-SAN

This way, this way

OH—

You came

!!!

UMM...

OH, THIS!

THAT'S RIGHT.

SO YOUNG—

HE WON AN AWARD FOR THIS CM.

IS THIS SAKURAI-SAN?

WHEN HE BECAME A DIRECTOR, HE IMMEDIATELY WON AWARDS!

IN MY CURRENT DEPARTMENT, THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO ENTERED THE COMPANY BECAUSE THEY ADMIRED SAKURAI-SAN

HE WAS AROUND THE SAME AGE AS I AM NOW HERE~

Around 28?

.....

However, Kashiwagi Masafumi is exceptional, right?

I do this work because I admire Kashiwagi-san

By the way, how often does Kashiwagi-san come here?

FLIP

FLIP

Look

HE APPEARS HERE TOO.

THIS TOO.

HE'S STILL GOOD AT HIS WORK EVEN NOW BUT HE WAS MUCH MORE VIGOROUS WHEN HE WAS MUCH YOUNGER!

He should make it next year too.

You're right

FLIP

FLIP

.....

THAT'S AMAZING...

FOR OVER TEN YEARS. SAKURAI-SAN LEFT SUCH A RESULT JUST LIKE THAT

SUCH A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO ME

I'M ALWAYS BOUND BY THE OPINIONS OF PEOPLE AROUND ME

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M AIMING FOR EITHER

I MIGHT WON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THE DETAILS BUT

IT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY HARD TO DO ALL OF THAT

FLIP

"I DON'T HAVE ANYONE SO I'M ALWAYS ALONE."

SAKURAI-SAN.

WHEN DID

SAKURAI-SAN.

"I THINK MY FATHER WAS AVOIDING ME."

"BEFORE I KNEW IT I AIMED THE SAME PATH HE HAD."

SINCE WHEN DID "THIS CAN'T BE HELPED" BECAME SOMETHING YOU CAN LAUGH ABOUT.

HOW DO YOU DO IT...

!!

SAKURAI-SAN ..

CYCLOP

reach

TURN

SAKU—

...FUJI-MOTO.

!

WHA...

.....
.....

HEY...
YOU KNOW.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
I HEARD THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT DEMOLISHING THIS BOARDING HOUSE.

AS I THOUGHT, YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE ME ANY-MORE, DO YOU?
!
NEVER MIND UNIVERSITY, BUT YOU'RE EVEN AVOIDING ME HERE IN THIS HOUSE. YOU'RE REALLY OBSTINATE ABOUT THIS.
AH...!

SILENCE
.....

WE..L...
I'M NEGOTIATING WITH THEM SO WE CAN CONTINUE LODGING HERE.
I SEE..
...

I'M SORRY.

BUT I GUESS THAT'S WHAT IT SEEMS LIKE.

.....

YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG...

I NEVER REALLY INTENDED TO DO—

...FUJIMOTO WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM ME.

I THOUGHT

Scratch

I just got back home anyway.

Ah—

NO... THAT'S NOT IT. I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO APOLOGIZE.

IF YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE...

I THOUGHT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TALK LIKE BEFORE ANYMORE...

SNAP

I ALSO THOUGHT THAT OUR FRIEND-SHIP IS ALREADY OVER TOO AND I GOT DEPRESSED.

THAT SHOULD BE MY LINE.

WHAT'S THAT

.....

ACTUALLY...

!

...CAN TALK ABOUT "FUTURE STUFF" WITHOUT GETTING EMBARRASSED.

BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT I...

THE TRUTH IS, I THINK IT'S BETTER IF WE GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS...

I MEAN YOU'RE THE ONLY SORT OF FRIEND LIKE THAT I HAVE...

WORK WITH YOU AGAIN.

THAT'S WHY... IF POSSIBLE, I WANT TO...

.....

.....

I'm so lame

I CAN'T REALLY SAY IT WELL.

I EVEN GO TO THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA ALONE.

OR DURING LESSONS OR DOING HOMEWORK, I WAS ALONE TOO. BECAUSE IT WAS MUCH EASIER THAT WAY.

BUT NOW..

I THINK THE THINGS THAT I CAN'T DO BY MYSELF HAVE INCREASED.

FUJI-MOTO.

YOU KNOW

I WAS ALWAYS ALONE, RIGHT?

...THAT'S WHY

I'LL BE TROUBLED IF YOU SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED

pfft

WHAT'S WITH THAT DETERMINED LOOK.

THAT'S TRUE..

BOTH OF US DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.

rattle

tap

HUH? SAKURAI IS SERIOUSLY GOING TO MOVE HERE IN THIS BOARDING HOUSE?

I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS SUDDENLY DECIDED

YOU-CHAN DIDN'T KNOW EITHER?

I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT IT

RATTLE

SLIDE

SAKURAI-SAN.

OH.

YOU FINALLY CAME.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE SLEEPING ALREADY BECAUSE IT'S ALREADY LATE.

.....

MESS

.....

.....

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE EVEN CLEANED IT UP WITH SO MUCH EFFORT.

.....

It was too much work

That's too bad

clunk

IS EVERYONE ASLEEP?

WHAT ABOUT YOSHITOMI-SAN?

I DON'T DRINK.

DO YOU WANT TO DRINK BEER?

grin

EH?

I GOT NOSTALGIC AND WHEN I LOOKED THROUGH IT A LITTLE, I COULDN'T STOP ANYMORE.

I SEE. I UNDERSTAND

flip

flip

HE CAN'T COME TOMORROW BECAUSE OF WORK SO HE TOLD ME TO GO SAY HI TO YOU ON HIS BEHALF.

HE ALREADY WENT BACK BEFORE I TOOK A BATH.

A MEMENTO FROM MY FATHER.

YEAH.

THEY ALL LOOK LIKE THE SAME NOTEBOOK.

Seems so old

.....

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING AT SINCE A WHILE AGO?

DRAFTS AND COPIES FOR HIS WORK ARE WRITTEN THERE.

HE LEFT DOZENS OF THESE BOOKS.

WHEN I GOT THE RESULT... I THOUGHT I FINALLY SURPASSED MY FATHER.

I EVEN THOUGHT *"SERVES HIM RIGHT."* I WAS PLANNING TO THROW ALL OF THESE TOO BUT...

AROUND TEN YEARS AGO... THERE WAS A TIME THAT I WORKED SO HARD BUT I COULDN'T IMAGINE IT NOW.

But,

WHEN I LOOK AT THESE, I FIND THEM INTERESTING NOW.

flip

flip

flip

...IN THE END, I COULDN'T EVEN THROW ONE OF THEM.

LOOK AT THIS. I COULD NEVER WRITE A COPY LIKE THIS.

See?

THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM...

SAKURAI-SAN.

...DID YOU MOVE IN TODAY FOR MY SAKE?

.....

IT'S FOR MYSELF!

IT'S BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO BE BY MY SIDE.

.....

YOU'RE WRONG.

.....

SAKURAI-SAN.

HM?

.....

SAKURAI-SAN TOLD ME I SHOULDN'T HOLD BACK AND DO WHATEVER I WANT.

SAKURAI-SAN

I...

...WANT TO DO IT.

To Be Continued

Does the Flower Bloom?

第32話

日高ショーコ

バーズコミックスの名前シリーズ「花は咲くか」1～4好評発売中

I LOVE SAKURAI SAN
YOUICHI
I'M GONNA WAIT FOR YOU UNTIL YOU COME OUT
"I'LL BE WAITING UNTIL THEN"
"WHEN YOU WANT TO TALK, CALL ME"
Vibr-ates
Vrrr

WAITING PATIENTLY FOR ME
MY BEHAVIOR PROBABLY CONFUSED AND AT SOME POINT IRRITATED HIM, BUT-
SAKURAI SAN, IS ALWAYS
.....
BUT I
...
SAKURAI-SAN

...
...
Hits
.....
YES...

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO IT
ME TOO
YOUICHI
.....

Holds
Shocked
SAKURAI-SAN
Ah
!!
Lick
Kiss
Lick
Kiss
SAKURAI-SAN!
UH
U-
WAIT
JUST..
JUST WAIT .
WHAT?
I CAN'T HEAR YOU
AH
Pins down
!?
EH?
IT TICKLES? ONLY THAT?
THAT TICKLES
.....
What?

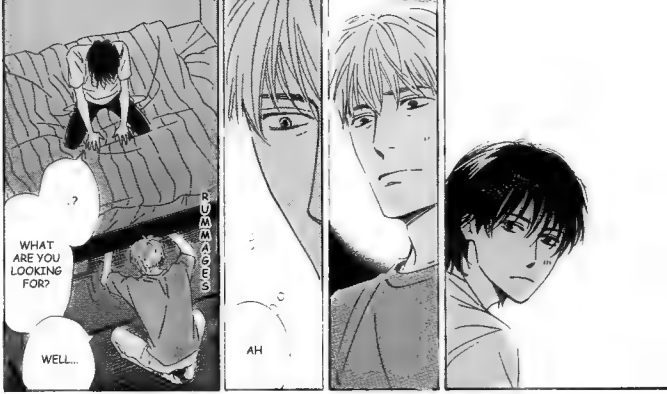
HERE?
Pulls
THEN, HOW ABOUT
NO..
IT'S NOT ONLY.
UH...
W
WAIT...
Ah
Ah
Ah
I SAID...
DON'T..
Grind
UH...
NH..
NO
Slide
Creak
HEY
Creak
Kiss
UH
Kiss
AH
Creak

Whisper
H..
WHAT IF THE PEOPLE UPSTAIRS HEAR YOU?
HEY, YOU'RE VOICE IS TOO LOUD!
Whisper
Whisper
WAIT...
WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP PLAYING WITH ME SAKURAI-SAN!!!
!!!
OI!
Pulls
Ah
OI!
WAIT
YOUICHI!
Pull
Squeezes
SAKURAI SAN!
WOAH!
Ow
Ow
Ow
Ah
Ah
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
Pull
Pull

I SAID, I WANTED TO DO IT FIRST
PLEASE STOP DOING WHAT YOU WANT ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE OLDER
AH ...
...
AH ...
UH ...
OK
IN THE NEXT ROOM!
I GET IT, I GET IT, BUT WE CAN'T DO IT HERE IN THIS ROOM!
LET'S GO THERE!
Ah
Ah
Pulls
HEY ..
I SAID WAIT.
OI
Pulls
Creak
Creaks

I'LL CLEAN A LITTLE
Many books
A BED...
Ah
Ah
YES
Pulls
BED!
THERE'S A BED OVER THERE
Pulls
GO THERE!
Slides
Ah
THIS IS WEIRD
Badabum
Badabum
Ah
Ah
Wobbly

SOME-
THING
LIKE THAT
Creak
IN THE
BEGINNING
MY PLAN
WAS ..
TALK
ABOUT
MY
FATHER
THEN,
WHEN
YOUICHI
WAS
MORE
RELAXED..
I WANT
TO DECIDE
ABOUT
THIS
HOUSE
WITH YOU
SAKURAI-
SAN
AND YOUR
FATHER
WAS JUST
THAT
KIND OF
PERSON
Talks
Yes,
yes,
I
see
...
THEN I'LL
COME TO
THIS PLACE
Click
Reaches
WE'RE
GOING TO
BE LESS
NOISY
NOW
NO


RUMMAGES
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
WELL...
AH

I'M LOOKING FOR MY SUITCASE
Searches
Searches
HERE IT IS
Searches

Opens
ZIPPER
OKAY, I'M READY
!!
WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?
Takes
I TOLD YOU TO KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN
I DIDN'T WANT ANYBODY TO SEE WHEN I OPEN IT
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

OKAY?
Creaks
ISN'T IT TOO DARK HERE?
CAN I TURN A LIGHT ON?
NO

WELL
I CERTAINLY KNOW THAT YOUR SOFT VOICE WON'T REACH UPSTAIRS...
NO, I DON´T WANT A LIGHT ON!
Murmurs
WHY NOT?
BUT IF YOU DON´T STAY QUIET, WE´LL HAVE TO STOP
EH
I'M JOKING...
I DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF STOPPING NOW

Touches
AAH
FU
YES
NH.

Pulls
Holds
Ah
HHN
AH
AH
AH
...
UHN
AH
SAKURAI-
SAN..
Hn
NH
Slides
AH
AH
HN
..

AH
....
UHN
Ah
ARE YOU CLOSE?
TRY NOT TO BE TOO LOUD
UH
..
Ah
UHN
NH
AAH
AH
AH
SAKURAI SAN
Aah
Uh
Aah
SAKURAI SAN

WHEN SAKURAI-SAN
TOUCHES ME .

I'M SURPRISED TO HEAR
THIS KIND OF VOICE
COMING FROM MY THROAT,

I'M UNSURE AND PERPLEXED, AND THEN MY MIND GOES BLANK

SAKURAI SAN IS WAITING

.....
IT DIDN'T LAST LONG
WHEN SOME ONE TOUCHES ME EVERY THING ENDS SO SOON.
.....
Creaks
SAKURAI-SAN..
.....
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NOW,
I'LL DO IT FOR YOU SAKURAI-SAN!
Creak
Creak
SAKURA-...
Creaks
Can you come here?
Squeezes
NH
YUP OKAY

Spreads
OKAY
Trembles
Eh
"WHAT"
..
??
WHAT?
I THOUGHT IT WAS MY TURN NOW.
To Be Continued

日高ショーコ

ラズベリーコミックス
「花は咲くか」1～4好評発売中

綻放的戀情

第33話

RIGHT NOW, AT THIS MOMENT, SAKURAI REALIZED THAT YOUICHI, WHO WAS SULKING TO HIDE HIS EMBARRASSMENT IN HIS AMS, WAS A SPECIAL EXISTENCE TO HIM RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING...

SQUELCH

SQUICH

I'M USING A CONDOM.

IT'S ALRIGHT IT'S NOT DIRTY

IT'S DIRTY

AH

HAA

HAA

THAT ASIDE, CAN I PUSH IT A LITTLE MORE INSIDE?

HAA

IM IMPOSSIBLE

AH...

NO

N...

SQUE-LCH

UGH ...

SQUE-LCH

UNH...

SHOVE

!!

HYA!

SHOCK

HAA

YOUICHI ...

HAA

YOUR VOICE...

HAA

AAH..

AAH...

UH..

NGH..

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

NGH..

KEEP IT DOWN.

FUU

NGH

HAA

NN.

SIGH

LICK

!!

THRUST

THA ..

NO...

HAA

SQUISH

SQUISH

AH

AH.

AAH...

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

CREAK

HAA

HAA

HAA

DOES IT HURT?

IT DOESN'T HURT

SLID

AHH...

DON'T ASK SOMETHING LIKE THAT

RIP

THIS IS NOT GOOD.

HAA

...

RUSTLE RUSTLE

?...

WHY?

DON'T LOOK.

BECAUSE IT'S EMBARRASSING.

SHOVE

HEY!

BECAUSE I WILL DO THE SAME THING LATER!

TEAR

EH

I DON'T WANT THAT.

WHY?

I TOLD YOU KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!

WHISPER

WHISPER

I GET IT.

THUD

...
WAIT A LITTLE BIT.

HAA

HAA

CREAK

HAA

HAA

HAA

.....

HAA

.....

SQUISH

HAA

I WONDER WHY I'M HESITAT-ING...

HAA

HAA

"SAKURAI-SAN"

YOUICHI.

AT THAT TIME, I WAS AL-READY..

ATTRACTED TO YOUICHI.

ON THAT COLD WEATHER,

THERE HE WAS DRAW-NG A FLOWER WITH AN EARNEST EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE.

I STIL- REMEM-BER IT WELL.

"PLEASE USE THE FRONT GATE THE NEXT TIME YOU VISIT."

"OR INTERESTED IN ME?"

"ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MY PAINTING?"

PFFT.

...WHAT...

WHY ARE YOU...

NO.

I JUST...

REMEMBERED SOMETHING

GIGGLE

WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT...

?

AH!

...!

AH...

AH.

NGH..

AAH...

UGH... AH...

THRUST

AH...

YOUICHI.

HAA

HAA

HAA

CLOSE MOUTH

HAA

YOUR VOICE...

PLEASE ENDURE IT.

HAA

AH...

I'M... GOING TO...

PUT IT ALL NOW...

HAA

HAA

AH

HAA

HAA...

HAA...

..SA..

NGH.

YOUICHI
..

HAA

HAA

YOUI...
UGH.

SAKURAI-
SA...

HAA

IT WAS A LIE BACK THEN WHEN I SAID THAT I WASN'T INTERESTED IN ANYONE.

GET LEFT BEHIND AT THE END.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I DID WORNG.

WELL, WHATEV-ER.

IT'S F NE. I'LL JUST BUY A NEW ONE.

I WON'T DIE ANYWAY EVEN WITHOUT TH S.

THUNK

NEXT IS...

THE TRUTH IS I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE.

I WANTED TO STAY BY THAT PER-SON'S SIDE AND TO BE TREATED GENTLY.

HOWEVER, I ALWAYS...

EVEN THOUGH THERE ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE A "*NEXT TIME*" WHEN IT *COMES* TO PEOPLE'S FEELINGS...

HOWEVER, I WAS WRONG.

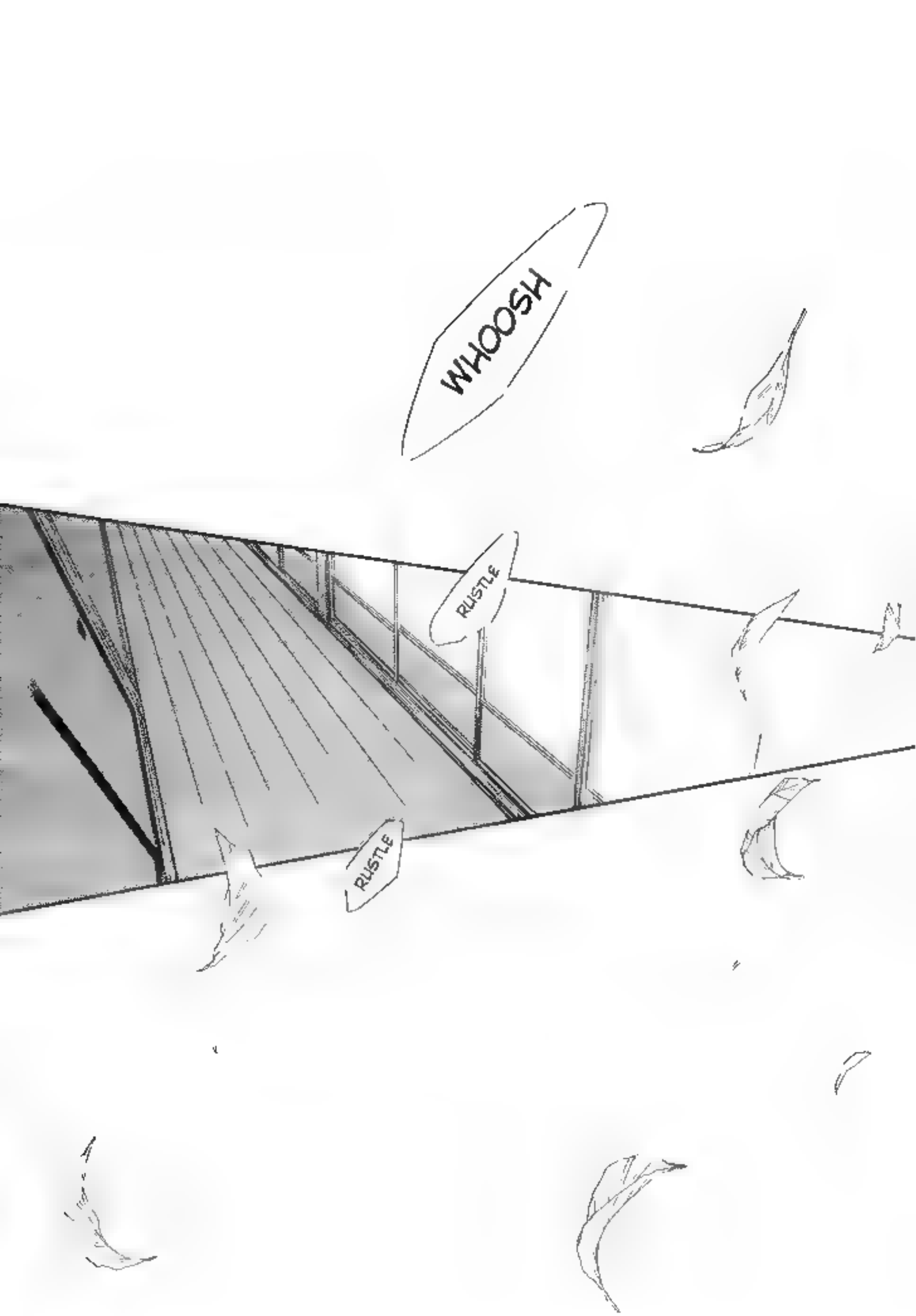
HAA

.....

YOU MADE ME REALIZE IT.

HAA

ONLY YOU...


WHOOSH
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

WASHING AND DRYING IT COMPLETELY.

DESTROYING THE EVIDENCE FROM LAST NIGHT...

SWISH

SWISH

.....

BEEP

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

I WANT TO HEAR YOUICHI'S VOICE PROPERLY...

WE'LL DEFINITELY GO TO A HOTEL NEXT TIME.

CREAK

WALK

WALK

I'M TURNING 40 SOON.

SO DOING SOMETHING SNEAKY IS A FIRST FOR ME.

I'VE BEEN LIVING ON MY OWN SINCE I WAS STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL...

I DON'T REMEMBER AT ALL.

THE WIND IS REALLY STRONG TODAY!

DID I CLOSE THE SLIDING DOOR?

UWAH!

CLATTER

RATTLE

CLATTER

HMM...

WHERE DID I PUT THAT...

CLATTER

CLATTER

FOUND IT

AH.

SAKU-RAI-SAN

BECAUSE YOU WERE ACTING SHY, I WENT AHEAD AND TOOK A BATH.

I'M NOT EMBARRASSED. I'M ANGRY.

DOING IT AS YOU PLEASE

NN..

I'LL LEAVE IT LIKE THAT SO JUST GO TAKE A BATH.

:

:

!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

IN THE GARDEN.

RUSTLE

I'M GOING TO PLANT THESE IN THE FLOWER BED.

EH?

AT THIS TIME?

IT'S BRIGHT OUTSIDE.

THE WIND WASHED AWAY THE CLOUDS.

THE MOON IS BEAUTI-FUL.

THUNK

THERE'S NO MORE SEED LIKE THAT.

BESIDES, THAT SEED WAS HAR-VESTED BY THAT GUY RIGHT?

THUNK

WHAT KIND OF SEED IS IT?

IS THAT THE SEED THAT SHOUTA...

NO.

THUNK

THUNK

THUNK

CAN YOU HOLD THIS?

YEAH.

THAT'S RIGHT. FATHER'S

IT WAS TOO OLD ALREADY THAT'S WHY IT D'DN'T GROW UNTIL THE END.

THIS IS LAST YEAR'S SEED THAT HAVE GROWN IN THE YARD.

IT WOULD BE GOOD IF THIS W'LL BE HARVESTED AROUND THIS TIME NEXT YEAR.

NOW EVERY-THING CAN BE FOUND VERY CONVE-NIENTLY ON THE NET...

AND THIS TIME, I WANT TO CERTAINLY MAKE IT GROW.

.....

ARE YOU GOING TO OSAKA?

AAH...

.....

YOU KNOW, YOUICHI...

YOUR DAD AND MOM...

YOUSUKE-SAN AND AYAKO-SAN...

BOTH OF THEM DIED IN AN ACCIDENT.

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT,

THEY WON'T JUST LEAVE YOU WITHOUT ANY WARNING OR REASON.

"YOUICHI."

"WELL THEN, I'M GOING NOW."

EVEN THE WILL WASN'T FORMALIZED EITHER.

IT WAS BY CHANCE THAT HE WROTE THAT WILL ON THE DAY BEFORE THE ACCIDENT.

IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE SUCH A THING CAN HAPPEN.

THOUGH I THINK HE'S VERY SELFISH.

I UNDER-STAND WHAT YOUSUKE-SAN WAS FEELING.

IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY,

NOT EVERY-THING WAS DECIDED SELFISHLY BY YOUR FATHER...

THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO THINK THERE IS A RIGHT PATH... AND PUSHES THEIR OPINIONS TO OTHERS WITHOUT REALIZING IT.

I DO IT AS WELL

...I THINK YOU'LL UNDER-STAND IT SOME-DAY.

I THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND IT ONCE YOU'VE BECOME AN ADULT.

THE "ME" NOW WILL JUST LAUGH IT OFF WHEN I SEE MY DAD'S NOTE.

I THINK THERE WILL COME A DAY WHERE YOU'LL START TO LOVE YOUR SELF SH PAR-ENTS.

NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED...

I SAID TIME WILL SETTLE IT!!

I WON'T UNDERSTAND IT UNTIL I BECOME THE SAME AGE AS SAKURAI-SAN.

WHOOSH

.. SAKURAI-SAN

HMM?

WHAT FLOWER WILL BLOOM?

TH S...

STEP

BUT SINCE SAKURAI-SAN 'S FORGETFUL, IT'LL WITHER ANYWAY.

YEAH THAT'S WHY...

WHEN I'M NOT HERE, YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

IF TWO PEOPLE W LL TAKE CARE OF IT, IT WON'T WITHER.

...YES.

AH.

THAT'S RIGHT. I ALMOST FORGOT.

GO TAKE A BATH ALREADY.

I'LL GO BUT...

CREAK

AFTER THAT, SAURAI-SAN, CAN I STAY IN YOUR ROOM UNTIL MORNING?

I WANT TO SEE THE NOTES.

THAT'S FINE...

I THINK I'LL PROB-ABLY FALL ASLEEP ANYWAY.

YEAH...

To Be Continued

NEXT CHAPTER IS THE LAST ONE.

[花は咲くか]最終巻5巻、特装版&通常版3月24日

SWOOSH
FWIP
FWIP
Hnn?
OH CRAP!!
THUD
THUD
THUD
Youichi!!
I'm done for!
I'm late!!

Uhh...
Sakurai-san
Ah, look at this mess!
It's fine, I'll clean it up so you can go ahead.
My bad!
I can't be late in today's first meeting.

Today ...
You're going home right?
Yes, I'm going.

Youichi
...
I swear I'm gonna take a vacation next week!!
I'll wait for it, but I won't expect much.

Later then!
Take care on your way home
Sakurai -san
Have a nice day.
...
Yeah.
I'm going then.
thud
thud
close
Or something like that
Even though he never gets to go on vacation, he makes such promises.

A year and a half since Sakurai-san moved to Osaka
The second spring arrives.
Here.
Souvenir from Osaka.

Youichi...
No way is this a souvenir. I bet you just took this on a whim from Sakurai-san's place.
pull
He didn't want to eat it and said I can take it.
Yeah, it has the label *o-seibo** written on it

*year-end gift

Youichi.
You're causing trouble to Sakurai-san again, aren't you?
Even knowing how busy he is, you went and overstayed in Osaka.
"Because it's spring break" you said.
"sigh"
"si~p"
Hey, are you listening?
Ah!
By the way Minagawa, look at this.
A job commission!
An interior design project, and I need your help.
Where is it this time?
An old dress shop that's being turned to a cafe.
We'll be working after the shop closes until morning.
We probably need to do overnighters, but—
Oi!!

Why?
Uncle Shouichi does not like your being away so often remember?
Especially you Youichi! Enough of these sleepovers!
Don't keep ignoring me and just do as you please!
You're wandering off too much.
He expects you to stay put and take care of the house while Yoshitomi-san is away.
It's fine to have a part-time job, but you should also be aware of your circumstances.
.....
It's not a part-time job. It's work.
SLAM

Whether it's part-time or not, you should–
Take-san, you're really beginning to sound like Uncle Shouichi.
Even the way you get mad!
Ha!?
I'm going to school.
I should start on my final art project.
Oi!
Hey, did you listen to what I said?
Moreover, there's no way I resemble Uncle Shouichi!
Yes, you do.
Ha?
Did you just turn the tables on me?
.....
Maybe because Shouta is away,
Take-san has now focused all of his mothering tendencies to Youichi.
I don't know if it's good or not...

My father collapsed and had to be admitted.
Now, I have to take charge of the family business for a bit.
You guys can cook for yourselves, right?
Haa?!
Take-san should do it.
I can't cook a thing.
It's the first spring since Sakurai-san left.
Yoshitomi-san also had to leave for a while.
Even Shouta.
I passed the entrance of my first choice for University!
Yey!
!
For real?!
Even though he just changed his mind?!
When he graduates high school, he has to return to the main house.
Just like brothers
They probably aren't finished with their discussion, so I'll just come again later.

Amazing!
Woah!
In exchange,
we have two new boarders.
It has become more and more like a boarding house, but...
thud
thud
pull
Even though I told him we're the only ones left...
Why, that Youichi!
Always doing as he pleases.
What?
Nope, nothing.
"Takeo"

"Isn't it high time you thought about your future?"
It was ideal for you to take care of Shouta before, but...
Surely you must have realized he will have to go some-day.
!...
As I thought ...
It's Take-san that I should tell this about.
I have a job offer,
The company I'm working for offered me a permanent position.
The working conditions are superb, and I'm planning to accept.
Of course, I have to graduate first...
I haven't even started my final painting yet

You're going back to Yokohama?
...
No way!
I'll be working in Shibuya. It's near this area.
I will probably stay here.
Sakurai-san might not like it though.
Takeo-san,
Minagawa is the landlord of this house, so you don't have to worry so much about it.
Did you know, he's looking for more boarders right now at the University.
Though it might take some time, surely something will come up!
He'll most likely leave the details to Sakurai-san.
That's why,

This should be the time for you to consider working in your father's company, isn't it?
!
.....
When did I talk to you about my father's–?
Nah.
Heard it from Shouta.
But you know, that guy said "It's fine if he did, but in the end, Take-san will be working for my own company!"
!
You made that deal with him?
''
.....
Oh well.
In any case, you should take it easy on Minagawa,
And focus more on what you really want to do!
For starters!
How about asking her out...

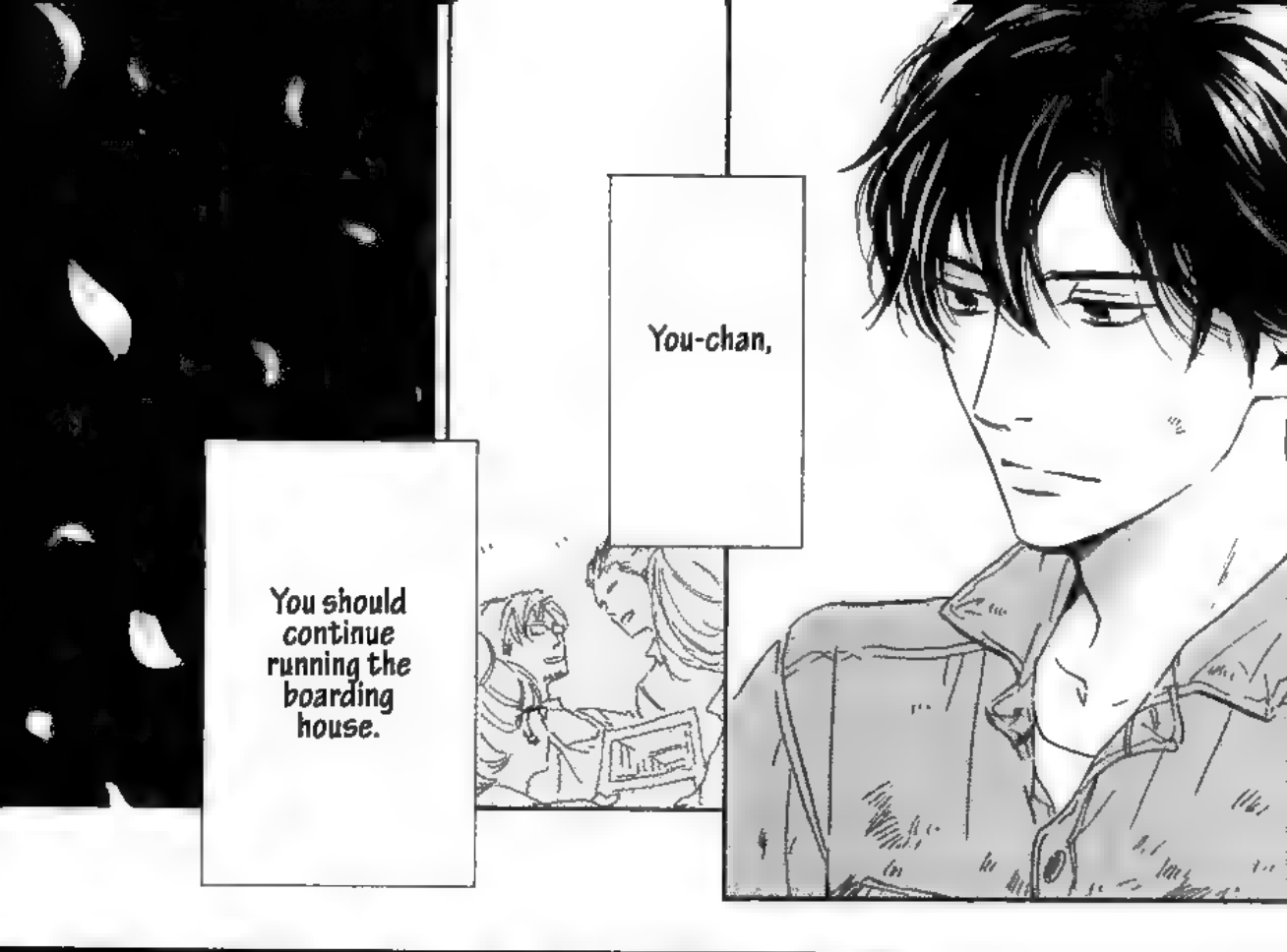
You got dumped?

SWISSH
SWOOSH
Hey guys,
Look at Minagawa over there.
SWISSH

SWOOOSH
SWISH
SWOOSH
SWISH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
More importantly, has Minagawa ever painted like that?
A-ha! There you are!
Is that the base coating?
I don't get his theme though...
Swish
Swoosh
Uwah!
So intense!

Minagawa,
'scuse us
Whether at home or school, you're always at the studio huh?
Devoted type.
If you have complaints, then do it yourself.
Who made you our king?
"Is that all?" Why, we busted our butts to get them, idiot.
... three people. Is that all?
Look.
A list of students coming to see the boarding house next week.
What are you painting there?
Is that for the finals?
.....
.....
Hey, Minagawa...

... No.
This is part of a collaborative project* I'm working on...
The draft of what I'm submitting for the finals is being painted at our atelier at home.
*not sure on this one
Atelier...
At home.
Eh?!
Really?! Your house has its own atelier?
Not really... It's just a vacant warehouse.
Warehouse!? Wow!
!!
Poof
So, are you guys interested?
How 'bout coming over to look next week?
Umm?!
We're both boarders there!
Ama~zing house, and it still has five vacant rooms!
Whoa.
The atmosphere is fantastic.
Woah
It has a gorgeous yard too!
.....


You-chan,
You should continue running the boarding house.

You know, I made a deal with my father.
That in exchange for my return to the main house,
He will postpone the demolition of this Isumizawa residence.

We shouldn't let dead people have their way, right?
With your passion You-chan, don't let yourself be overthrown by Uncle Yousuke's will.
I can't keep living in this house knowing that you're suffering there...
Then if you can't stand them, don't force yourself to return to the main house.
Don't wanna.
... Shouta,
Why not call your father "Dad" instead of "that person"
I don't blame you.
You-chan just ran away and left me to the wolves. But I don't blame you anymore.
If so, then I should just let this house-
You kept saying that a lot of our relatives there are heartless, right?
That's right.

What did Auntie say?
Will you really be okay living there?
Probably. She is surprisingly caring, so I thought I should also try my best.
My older brothers & sisters are also like that too.
Long ago,
I always thought they considered me an eyesore and a nuisance that should be shipped away to study abroad,
But it didn't turn out that way.
I don't even know what the reality is anymore.
I always kept thinking of negative things.
The only thought that kept going through my mind was that the moment I graduate high school, I'm leaving the Minagawa house.

.....
Just a while before, Take-san told me...
.....
But you know,
If I do that, then my ties with You-chan and Take-san will be gone as well.
That if I wanted to really do something, I should continue my studies.
Even if it meant taking advantage of the Minagawa house's resources.
He told me with a smile "I will support you".
.....
Even You-chan too.

When you asserted yourself so earnestly in front of everyone at the main house,
You know when I witnessed that, I was really impressed.
You-chan, you can keep your word, right?
Then me too. I'll also do my best without running away this time.
Won't we?
Because when I finish college, I will definitely return to this house.
That's why You-chan...

Until that time comes, promise me that you'll take care of this house, okay?
Minagawa,
These guys don't seem interested.
No, we are interested.
Becoming boarders though...
Then how about just the atelier?
...
Huh?
I can rent out just the atelier.
Probably
Don't you want to continue painting even when the university studio is closed?
Yes, we do!
Back then,

During my father's time, a lot of women came and went into our house...
but they couldn't have been boarders. That's why...
Can I rent out just the atelier...?
.....
Maybe.
Ah!
That's right!
Having female boarders sounds great!
Let's invite Fuma-san from the sculpting department!
And Yuka-chan too.
Who's that?
Yey!
Yey!
But who is "Yuka-chan"?
Let's tell her "It's a beautiful Japanese house~"
.....
I wonder what my mother was doing...
Every time.
What was she always doing at the atelier?

With paper sheets scattered under her bare feet...
Looking at father's paintings with her back towards me...
I can only remember one thing during that time...
Youichi.
I have a feeling Yousuke-san is angry with me.
At that moment, I couldn't help but wonder what was going through my mother's mind.

Kashiwagi-san,

With paper sheets scattered under her bare feet...
Looking at father's paintings with her back towards me...
I can only remember one thing during that time...
Youichi.
Please don't become gay like your father.
At that moment, what could my mother have been thinking?

< TO BE CONTINUED... >
P.s. Ayako's line was a joke (^^)
Belated April fools!

Sorry,
I arrived late.
Sakurai.
T-that... how did you-?
I presented on the 1st day.
Ehh?
I did a presentation for K-Foods.
What about for AdEast, are you done with yours?
No, I don't mind.
I'm not returning to Tokyo until this evening.
Why did you come to Osaka today?
They were the ones who asked me to join in the bidding.
Their advertising department is an old acquaintance of mine.
Ehh!?

Please don't underestimate me.
Apologies, but...
I believe this project will be mine.
No...
Ours made a favourable impression, & nothing has been decided yet.
So, how's your work here in Osaka?
Getting approvals here was easier than I thought. I was a bit surprised.
But the budget is a bit...
clink
Ahh...
By the way Sakurai, have you been meeting with Youichi?

Umm... Well,
I have to attend meetings at the main office once a month, so during that time, I stay at the Minagawa house.
Youichi also came here in Osaka to hang out a few times.
Some - times, even Shouta too.
.....
You guys are really close.
...
Thank you.
Just recently,
Youichi all of a sudden asked me about Ayako.
!
"If you're hiding something about my mother, please tell me now", he told me out of the blue.
Sakurai, that was your doing, right?
Just what exactly have you been telling Youichi?

.....
I told him that whenever I brought up the topic of Ayako-san,
Kashiwagi-san somehow intervenes and puts an end to it.
.....
... though you might have done it unknowingly.
Sakurai...
Yousuke and Ayako's past story is a separate matter. You will only end up opening old wounds."
But... you shouldn't dig up the past any further.
It would be best if you just focus all your attention and thoughts to Youichi.
I trust you, and I acknowledge that
there probably won't be another person who can get close to Youichi the way you have done. I am certain Youichi knows this too.

It is precisely for Youichi's sake
that I wan't to know more about his parents.
I don't mean to argue but...
.....
Youichi also thinks the same.
He only wants to know what was going through his mother's mind.
I'm home.

simmer
simmer
So?
Are those guys gonna become boarders?
Here, try it.
Who knows.
Oh!
So tired...
!
By the way,
How was it that there were girls around here during my father's time? They weren't boarders right?
Oho?
Why? Are you maybe thinking of bringing girls over?
No way, right?
So you're back Youichi.
I made dinner.
As if.
Besides, I already have someone I love.
!!
*Way to go Youichi
I also didn't know that Yoshitomi-san is seeing someone, so we're even.
Leave me alone.
WHAT!???
Why don't I know any of this?!

Why?
Sakurai-san?
Masafumi was supposed to meet him in Osaka.
I'm a bit worried.
Uhh...
Right. But more importantly, has Sakurai called you?
scratch
?
Masafumi learned that Sakurai was asking about the past, and it irked him.
I myself didn't think that Sakurai was the type to meddle in other people's business.
He can be quite persistent.
Yoshitomi -san
chop chop
chop
Hm?
.....
Asking them all at once
"Can you introduce me to the former boarders". It was quite annoying.
Stuff like "How did Yousuke & Ayako run the boarding house",
Sakurai-san? What did he ask about?
Would you know the reason why my mother ignored me?
Well, it's not like you'd be interested in those things anyway.

Psha a
Clunk
...!
... Youichi
I will try to ask about Ayako-san from the previous boarders of this house.
...?
My mother? Why?
It has been bothering me.
Everyone tells stories of Yousuke-san as if it only happened yesterday, but...
no one says a thing about Ayako-san.
It's not as if they're casting her out. It's just that no one really talks about her.

When I think about it,
I cannot help but remember my father, because his behavior back then was exactly the same.
He never talked about my mother.
As if there was something about her that he did not want to be revealed. Whenever her name was brought up, he would always get angry.
Time passed by, then both my grandmother and father passed away,
and in the end, I never knew the reason why my mother left us.
But I've come to terms with it now.
.....
tugs
Now what?

I want to.
I have always wanted to know...
So, what should I do?
If you don't want me to, then I won't probe any further.
the reason why my parents left me behind.
Kashiwagi-san,

I did not dig up the past without thinking.
Surely there must have been ...
Youichi also wants to know.
a reason behind the scenes he saw as a child.
Why he can only remember his mother facing away from him, and the wall of people that suddenly began to surround him...

for us to be able to move forward, I shall not waver.
I'm sorry to say this,
but the one who still dwells in the past
Kashiwagi-san keeps saying that we should just forget everything,
but forgetting one's parents is not something a child can easily do.
I think that Youichi just wants to know.
From this point on,
!
is not Youichi, but Kashiwagi-san, is it not?
"Hey, Masafumi"

What do you think of this painting?
The color is- how should I say it... hideous.
It IS ugly, huh?
pfft
That's exactly how I'm feeling at the moment.
Hear me out guys.
Recently, Ayako doesn't seem to be able to recognize Youichi anymore.
I knew it.
You should've followed the doctor's advice to take her to the hospital.
swish
If not, it might affect Youichi...
I can't.
You-suke ...
swish swish
If I do that,
what do you think my brothers at the main house will say?

More-over, I...
They'll surely make me divorce her,
and take away my rights to this house.
Even though I have made it this far!
I just want to stay by Ayako's side.
But what Masafumi said makes sense.
That's why we must hide this from Youichi at all costs.
We can't let him know that his own mother no longer recognizes him.

I thought I was finally able to make my own place here.
Ayako has regressed to her student days, and she doesn't come to this atelier anymore.
It's so painful.
.....
Masafumi ...
What should I do?

I paint because I couldn't sleep.
Always.
And it's only with you two that I can let out these worries.
Who knows.
I can't remember anymore.
.....
Hey, since when have you last slept?

<to be continued>

Youichi.
Sakurai-san
Thank goodness.

Saku–
You never answered any of my calls so I came in a hurry.
Why are you here?
……?
"Why" you ask...
……
Are you seriously asking me that question now?
No matter how many times I called or e-mailed you, you never once bothered to answer them. That's why I'm here.
Huh?
When I called the house, Take-san said you're in the atelier...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
Woah, it's true..

Did Kashiwagi-san come?
He did
And Yoshitomi-san too.
It was the first time I saw them act like that.
Sakurai
It's not like I'm obeying you, but...
I'll head back to Tokyo right away and go to Izumisawa.
I wonder if I made a mistake?
Because until now, I have always...
... treated Youichi like a child, right?
Sakurai-san
You've also heard my mother's story, haven't you?
Mm, more or less.

He was just desperate for you not to get hurt by Ayako's words and actions.
Youichi,
Yousuke has always put you in the topmost priority.
Her illness was worse than I thought.
.....
My mother's existence to me is only but a faint memory.
If I were to be honest...
... and I would have been satisfied with that.
I don't think the method of Kashiwagi-san & Yoshitomi-san was wrong.
And it would have remained that way if it were not for Sakurai-san.

Nevertheless, you still wanted to know her story, right?
Yes.
.....
I was surprised when you appeared all of a sudden.
From now on, you should at least check your mail from time to time.
I'm sorry.
HUGS
.....

If you didn't know Ayako-san's condition, you would not have understood Yousuke-san's way of thinking.
Now, you can at least understand Yousuke's will a bit, right?
How-ever,
Yoshitomi-san and Kashiwagi-san said they have always regretted one thing.
On the day of the accident, they said they should not have let my father drive.
And knowing my mother's condition, they should not have let him take her to the hospital all by himself.

But, that was quite a grave story, wasn't it?
Still, no matter how I look at it, it was all my father's fault.
The accident happened because of his mistake.
Yo-
Youchi?
Shouta said we shouldn't let dead people have their way, so...
I'll do exactly that.
Hey,

!
The "Yousuke Minagawa" that everyone speaks of, and this painting... I have always hated them.

The strong and good-natured Yosuke Minagawa that everyone loves,
and this painting .... they never jived.
That feeling of unsettlement irritated me so.
However, the true Yousuke Minagawa is really an egotistic, selfish,
and just an ordinary person who is spoiled by Yoshitomi-san and Kashiwagi-san
If my father was like that, then I can relate with that type of person.

It has quite a similar touch with your paintings.
... Yeah.
I really like this painting though.
That's because you learned how to paint from your father, right?
.....
That's right.
My father taught me all of it.
Everything.
The joys of painting, as well as its hardships.

But you know, I have always liked your paintings better.

By the way, do you remember those old seeds?
Old seeds?
The ones you gave to Shouta which I planted but kept withering, which you constantly pointed out.
Ahh, those seeds.
It turns out, those were not your father's after all.
Those seeds were harvested by your mother.
!
I found them in my father's cabinet, so I thought for sure that they were his...
I heard this from Shouichi-san himself.
Your mother planned to grow those seeds
on the day of your birth,
so that when its flowers finally bloom, she will name them after you.

Here, look at these.
Let's go plant them together.
Indeed.
I did plant them with her.
Only once though...
Because even during that time when she was troubled, she still smiled at me.
I don't think my mother has completely forgotten me.
It seems that Yousuke-san is angry with me.
Youichi

And somehow, I am finally able to understand my parents a bit more.
That's why now, I can talk about her more freely.
Youichi.
PATS
OW!
!
Were you crying?
.....
Was not.
U-huh.
What's with that pause? I said I wasn't crying!
.....
Sakurai-san

Hm?
!?
Gggh!
Mmph
Nnn
.....
Hnn
Hah

The seeds we have planted together,
They have withered many times over, and have still yet to blossom.

Hey,
why do you always grab my collar and kiss me like that?
It's hard to breath you know.
.....
I can't get the timing right.
Fin